

USDA Begins Implementing Web-based Interstate Movement Documents

The Veterinary Services (VS) program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is finalizing efforts to implement the Web-based interstate movement module for certificates of veterinary inspection. The VS Process Streamlining (VSPS) initiative will offer a single access point for electronic forms, applications and certification processes required for interstate and international movement of animals and animal products. The interstate movement module will:

- Be available in five or more states during the first quarter of 2006 and in other states later next year;
- Be available at no cost to any state or USDA-accredited veterinarian;
- Require no software to purchase or upload to any of the computers you use; and
- Be usable from any location that has a computer with Internet access and printer.

The VSPS contributes toward the goal of achieving 48-hour traceback and the ultimate implementation of an effective National Animal Identification System.

Development of the VSPS Web-based integrated information is a collective effort of state and federal veterinarians supported by the United States Animal Health Association. When the system is completed, accredited veterinarians will be able to access regulations, create certificates of veterinary inspection, incorporate required diagnostic test and vaccination charts, and electronically submit documents to the origin and destination states.

Until this new system is ready, a Web-based alternative exists. The Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection can be used in any state and by any accredited veterinarian, at no cost and with support from a telephone "help desk." To access this interim system, go to <http://icvi.aphis.usda.gov/index.jsp>. Sign up for access via the New Member section.

Note to Stakeholders: Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "News" button. For additional information on this topic contact Teresa Howes at (970) 494-7410 or e-mail <teresa.k.howes@aphis.usda.gov>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.