



2012 Agriculture Stakeholder Conference
“Pests, Pathways, and Partnerships”
July 17 – July 18



Day 1 Panel Discussion:

Plant Pest and Foreign Animal Disease Exclusion, Agricultural Stewardship, and Leveraging Resources

Foreign Animal Disease Breakout Session

Facilitator: Christina Lohs - (USDA-PPQ)
Note Taker: Day One - Dean Duvall (CBP)
Highlights: Day One - Dr. Keith Wiggins – (USDA-PPQ)

Topic: Stewardship and Resources – *How can Federal, State and private organizations maintain effective foreign animal disease exclusion efforts?*

Goal: *To maintain effective foreign animal disease exclusion efforts. To identify the common themes between agencies and organizations to develop a road map for future improvement.*

Breakout Session Purpose (Day 1):

- Actively engage government and industry representatives.
- To discuss ways to improve our foreign animal disease exclusion efforts, and identify new ways to leverage our resources to safeguard American agriculture and natural resources.

Notes – Day One:

Questions presented to the group by facilitator:

- What is working well with foreign animal disease exclusion efforts?
- Ideas for improvement and best practices

Comments/Discussion Threads:

What needs improvement?

1. Something not working so well: We are waiting heavily on port of entry (POE) to mitigate threats; this should be overseas, with outreach for the overseas 1st line of defense, and JFKs and Miami’s being the 2nd line of defense.
 - a. Emerging disease
 - b. Enzootic
 - c. Look at foreign countries at origin points
 - d. Push the Borders Back to the country or origin
2. Shouldn’t treatment overseas be considered?



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3. Agreed, why do they bring it here for treatment?
 - a. Is treatment cheaper here?
 - b. Or, is it done more reliably here?
4. Question:
 - a. Are the documents valid?
 - b. What are the standards overseas?
 - c. We should know the answers to these
5. Air cargo environment
 - a. Information sharing is better
 - b. What we have done is improved working together for common cause
 - c. We should continue pushing these agreements and work together forward.
6. Comment: If we have information in advance we have better, USDA may be able to have overseas proactive outreach.
7. APHIS could be better prepared to outreach as well.
8. Issue in Texas, the border violence plays a significant role. They are challenged to make different arrangements now. Ticks are a problem. They should look at these on the other side Mexico.
9. How can CBP utilize data tools better to outreach?
10. Data is many times difficult to be reliable. Also staffing (manpower and IT) can limit outreach as well. We (CBP) can look at ways to share information better, and that may be an area we can improve on.
11. Center for Disease Control (CDC): We can do better too.
12. Answer: DR. Wiggins; there could be a more proactive outreach at embassies, through increased outreach. China is a huge problem, and there may be more results through use of U.S. overseas personnel.
13. Miami port: We utilize technology to share information with our staff every day. We have daily musters for our staff, so they are aware of the most recent agricultural related problems globally.
 - a. Additionally, we have increased our capacity to target for suspicious items and materials that may pose problems.
14. Why not ban importation of all handbags (agriculture product) that may be problem? This trade group is not that large. Banning these seems like that would be more reliable, than attempting to inspect all of these.
15. Not necessarily land borders, because we know more about what agricultural products are coming from those border countries; whereas other countries pose more an unknown risk.
16. Where does CBP draw the line regarding banning items? Because personal rights are also important; responding to political inquiries and destroying or handling abandoned items are challenges that have to be considered.



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17. American airlines had a nice outreach "don't pack a pest" on my travel to Washington. There was a "no free ride" video as well. This was good outreach. Perhaps not all airlines conduct this outreach.
18. Automation electronically. There is an opportunity to pass out information when a passenger is leaving, rather than when the passenger is returning.
19. Outreach can be more aggressively approached. Sandra Bullock admitted to smuggling pork on public television; there was an opportunity to request to her publicist to retract the statement, and admit fault rather than condoning the action.
20. The same feeling is true, but another important issues is the Southern border where Mexican cattle are known to have Tuberculosis (TB). Why do we seem to be ignoring some of these more close-by issues?
21. Offshore outreach
22. Multiple levels of controls, not weighing solely on POE's.
23. Information sharing from Government agencies to industry

-What is working well?

1. Communication between states, APHIS, CBP and the businesses in the regions (risk assessment)
2. Cross-training is working well for government and industry.
3. CBP is taking the job of inspection really seriously, and it seems to be working well.
4. Adoption of technology is very nice, for rapid pest identification.
5. Joint liaison at the ports between agencies and the industry, and it continues to have momentum.

2% of people farm; and 100% of people eat.

END