U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Agriculture Fact Sheet

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Threats to the U.S. Agriculture Industry

- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), agriculture contributes over 22.1 million jobs in the U.S. with more than $l.5 trillion in annual economic activity (USDA Economic Research Service, 2023).
- The greatest risks to the success of this industry are exotic pests and foreign animal diseases. Annual cost to the U.S. from invasive species is estimated to be $120 billion, with more than 100 million acres affected (NISAW, Maine.gov).
- Each day, at 328 ports of entry and 15 Preclearance locations, CBP helps to prevent the introduction of potentially harmful plant pests, foreign animal diseases, and biological threats from the U.S.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Agriculture Statistics

Passenger Inspections..... 2,702,429

Cargo Inspections..... 882,387

Quarantine Material Interceptions (QMI)
- Animal Products 402,868
- Plant Materials/Soil 816,037
- Miscellaneous 90,063
- Total QMI 1,308,968

Pest Interceptions
- Submitted 101,970
- Quarantine Significant 46,527

Total Passenger Penalties..... 8,087

Workforce and Career Enhancement

Today, CBP deploys more than 2,600 agriculture specialists to over 180 ports of entry.

Training

CBP and the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have continued to develop and use pest detection and interception training to strengthen inspection efforts since 2004.

These include modules on the Flighted Spongy Moth Complex (*Lymantria* moths), Khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*), Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*), citrus greening disease (Huanglongbing), and wood packaging materials (WPM).

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Pest Exclusion & Agriculture Safeguarding

In addition to exclusionary and safeguarding practices at the ports of entry, agriculture specialists engage in extensive outreach with social media, speaking engagements, educational events, and signage aimed at informing the traveling public of the negative environmental and economic impacts that foreign pests and animal diseases, such as African swine fever (ASF), a deadly pig disease, may have if introduced into our nation. ASF spreads rapidly among swine. The virus could devastate the pork industry and food supply. CBP works diligently every day to prevent the introduction of this disease into the U.S.

PROTECT OUR PIGS
FIGHT AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Invasive fruit flies feed on over 400 crops and resources to combat them is limited. Fruit fly larvae destroy produce by feeding on the inside making it unfit for human consumption. Often infested produce show little to no signs of damage on the outside. Fruit fly affected crops include citrus and other fruits, nuts, vegetables, and berries (USDA APHIS 2024).

The Khapra beetle is one of the world's most destructive stored-product pests. Feeding on a variety of dried materials, it is resistant to insecticides, and can go long periods without food, with a larva being able to survive dormant for up to two years. Khapra beetles are not known to occur in the U.S. and its introduction into the U.S. could have serious consequences and economic impact.

Contaminants like soil, manure, seeds, and plant/animal material may harbor invasive pests and diseases. Eliminating contaminants in conveyances and cargo prior to arrival in the U.S. will result in fewer holds, delays, and commodity returns or treatments.

Agriculture Canine

In 2003, approximately 75 canine teams were included when the Homeland Security Act transferred the agriculture inspection function from USDA to CBP. Today, the CBP agriculture canine program has grown to 201 detector dog teams, providing screening at international border crossings, preclearance locations, air passenger terminals, cruise terminals, cargo warehouses, and mail facilities. CBP's agriculture canine teams initially train at the USDA's National Detector Dog Training Center in Newman, GA. After training, the canine teams are deployed to the field where they protect U.S. agriculture by recognizing fruits, vegetables, meats, and soil that are hosts for invasive pests and diseases.