



News for Stakeholders

October 2011

Contact Information

Hallie Zimmers
Stakeholder Liaison, APHIS
Legislative and Public Affairs
202-720-0378 (ph)
202-720-3982 (fax)
hallie.zimmers@aphis.usda.gov

Jacob Hegeman
State Liaison, APHIS
Legislative and Public Affairs
202-720-6794 (ph)
202-720-3982 (fax)
jacob.hegeman@aphis.usda.gov

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Join APHIS' Chicken Chat on Twitter During Bird Health Awareness Week

Bird Health Awareness Week kicks off October 30, and APHIS will be sponsoring a variety of activities and programs throughout the week including a "Chicken Chat" via Twitter with USDA's Spokesbird @Healthy_Harry. The goal is to provide students, bird lovers and poultry owners the opportunity to learn simple steps to keep their flocks healthy.

The Twitter chat will run from 10-11 a.m. EDT on Tuesday, Nov. 1, and you can join the conversation by logging onto Twitter, using #HHchat and following @Healthy_Harry. During the chat, Harry will turn over the keyboard to APHIS Veterinarian Dr. Fidelis Hegngi so he can answer your questions about bird health. Backyard poultry owners can also share valuable information about:

- How to keep flocks safe from predators and disease,
- How to recognize the signs of infectious diseases,
- What to do if your birds are sick, and
- Who to call for assistance.





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You can submit questions in advance by emailing birdbiosecurity@aphis.usda.gov.

Bird Health Awareness Week is part of APHIS' Biosecurity For Birds campaign to promote awareness of and ways to prevent the spread of infectious poultry diseases. For more information, go to: healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov.



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FY 2012 Farm Bill Section 10201 Update

Since the 2008 Farm Bill established funding under Section 10201 to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests and diseases, APHIS has funded more than 670 projects in 50 States and two territories to protect American agriculture. This includes 312 projects funded in fiscal year (FY) 2011. These projects have strengthened our ability to protect U.S. agriculture and natural resources by allowing APHIS to enhance plant pest/disease analysis and survey activities, target domestic inspection activities at vulnerable points in the safeguarding continuum, augment and strengthen pest identification and technology, safeguard nursery production, increase public awareness and understanding of pest threats through education and outreach, and expand mitigation capabilities.

The APHIS 10201 team is working diligently to prepare to receive suggestions for FY 2012. These preparations have included a review of funded projects. The purpose of the review is to determine both the effectiveness and progress of each project in order to ensure that:

- the most effective and responsible projects that may merit renewal are identified, and
- areas of priority or continued need are identified prior to the beginning of the FY12 suggestion open period.

Additionally, the team has been working to establish an enhanced submission process that includes the creation of an online submission form and the development of specific guidance for stakeholders to help align and focus suggestions in the areas we have identified as priorities.

The dates for the FY12 suggestion open period have not been determined at this time. APHIS' intent is to announce the open period as soon as the 10201 team completes its preparatory activities. It's important to note, however, that FY12 10201 funding is currently unavailable because specific statutory language is



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required to allow APHIS to make full use of CCC funds for this purpose. When such authority is provided, APHIS will move quickly to implement this program.

Please look for more 2008 Farm Bill Section 10201 updates in the next few weeks on the [APHIS Web site](#) or subscribe to be notified of any Farm Bill Section 10201 developments through the [PPQ Stakeholder Registry](#).



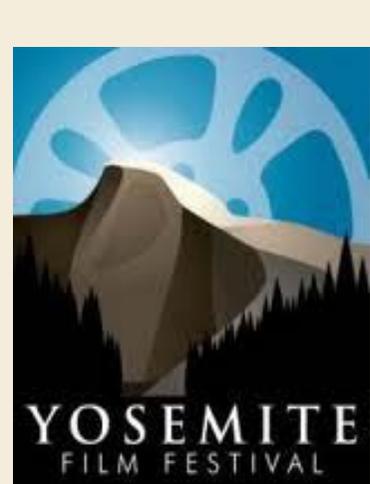
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APHIS-Sponsored Video Wins the 2011 Yosemite Film Festival Silver Sierra Award

APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program was one of the major sponsors of "Super Rangers and the Legion of Bugs," announced in September as the winner of the 2011 Yosemite Film Festival Silver Sierra Award in the animated film category. Made by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the video received special recognition for its creativity, originality, and professionalism. The video is posted on YouTube's Web page at <http://www.youtube.com/dontmovefirewood#p/u/3/Y1sYKntstFo>.

"Super Rangers and the Legion of Bugs" is one of five TNC videos sponsored in part by APHIS in FY 2010. It depicts an elite group of park rangers who combat invasive bugs conspiring to attack U.S. forests by hitching rides on firewood transported for camping and hunting trips, or for outdoor events. The video features invasive species such as the Asian longhorned beetle (detected in five States) and the emerald ash borer (detected in more than a dozen States). It is designed to educate the public about the dangers that invasive pests, and transporting firewood that may contain them, can pose to America's forests.





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New Features on APHIS' Freedom of Information Act Web Site

APHIS continues to expand the resources on its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Web site to increase transparency and provide stakeholders with easy access to a variety of Agency materials without having to make an official request.

Earlier this month, APHIS began posting [Congressional Reports](#) in the FOIA Reading Room. Interested stakeholders can read recent Agency reports on Animal Disease Traceability, Class B Dealers and Pest Disease Management. Future Congressional reports will be posted in this same location along with testimony from APHIS-related Congressional hearings.

To help educate stakeholders and Agency employees about the FOIA process, APHIS has also started posting ["FOIA Tips and Tidbits"](#) in the online reading room. Featured tidbits explain the intent of FOIA and the Obama Administration's commitment to transparency. Future postings will discuss how to access records released by the Agency, what information is not releasable under FOIA and much more.

To get a better sense of the type of FOIA requests APHIS receives, you can check the Agency's [FOIA log](#), which lists incoming requests. The logs include the following information: the case tracking number, the requestor's name and affiliation, the subject of the request, the date the request was received and the date the request was closed. Individuals' personal privacy information is removed.



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APHIS International Services Offshore Safeguarding Mission

Increased risks of pest and disease introductions through globalization and more open trade practices, climate change, and unusual weather patterns are a persistent threat to U.S. agriculture, requiring vigilance, international collaboration and partnerships, and targeted programs overseas. APHIS' offshore safeguarding efforts are led by International Services' (IS), which has Attachés posted overseas to report on emerging plant and animal health threats and assist foreign governments in detecting and managing pests and diseases.

A major component of IS' safeguarding activities fall under the heading of "Action Programs". These are multinational programs, often involving the production and use of sterile insects to dilute and eliminate major agricultural pests such as cattle screwworm in Panama, the Mediterranean fruit fly in Guatemala, and the Mexican fruit fly in northern Mexico. The goal is to prevent these and other major agriculture pests from reemerging as a threat to the United States.

Offshore safeguarding also consists of activities geared toward monitoring and eradicating economically significant pests such as foot-and-mouth disease from the Western Hemisphere (currently focused on Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Paraguay), classical swine fever (CSF) from Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and monitoring highly pathogenic avian influenza in Asia and Africa.

The Agency's capacity building efforts in the Greater Caribbean region to strengthen agriculture quarantine inspection infrastructures, survey work, pest lists, entomology training, and collaboration among regional plant and animal health authorities are another example of IS' overseas work. Through programs such as these, APHIS can effectively partner with neighboring governments to improve their safeguarding infrastructure and secure timely information about offshore threats to U.S. agriculture.





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IS' capacity building efforts also support the Agency's safeguarding goals by providing technical assistance and training aimed at improving and/or aligning countries' policies and approaches related to biotechnology, regulatory methodologies and standards, pest risk analysis, epidemiology, wildlife control and surveillance, foreign animal diseases, diagnostics, and animal and plant quarantine and inspection. This overseas technical collaboration and assistance ultimately provides a primary means for APHIS to work with other governments to better anticipate and resolve animal and plant health issues before they spread and become larger threats to global food security, production, and trade.

For more information about IS, go to: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/international_safeguarding/index.shtml



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APHIS Featured Blog: USDA Tree Climber Finishes 12th in World Competition

Posted by Bear LeVangie, APHIS Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program, Worcester, Mass., on October 7, 2011

<http://blogs.usda.gov/2011/10/07/usda-tree-climber-finishes-12th-in-world-competition/#more-36051>





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APHIS YouTube Clip of the Month: Keep It Clean

Click here: <http://www.youtube.com/usdaaphis#p/a/u/0/Nbdu-8IzNF8> to view the last in a series of 3 short videos on backyard bird health. This video discusses the importance of knowing your backyard birds when they're healthy, as well as the signs of illness. It features Healthy Harry, the healthy birds spokesbird, and USDA veterinarian Dr. Kate Bowers. healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov





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APHIS Employee Feature: Dr. Tracey Lynn, Veterinary Services

Name: Tracey Lynn

Title: One Health Science Coordinator, Veterinary Services (VS)-Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health

Tell us about your role: I coordinate CEAH's support to VS on One Health related activities, which includes surveillance, risk analysis, epidemiologic investigations and surveys, and modeling. The term "One Health" refers to a holistic approach across multiple disciplines in order to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment. VS is working to incorporate One Health principles and activities into our Agency's framework, as we advance our mission to safeguard the health of animals and promote, improve, and defend the health and well-being of all species. We recognize that our work to ensure healthy, productive livestock and pets contributes broadly to human health and a healthy economy. The VS One Health initiative is described more fully on the [VS2015](#) Web site. There is a lot of exciting activity going on at the One Health interface right now, particularly regarding epidemiologic investigations and future needs in pre-harvest food safety. There is also a compelling need to improve collaboration and coordination between public health, animal health, and environmental interests at all levels (inside VS and with Federal, State, local, and Tribal partners, and industry and other stakeholders). Recent examples of VS One Health activities supported by CEAH include conducting a risk assessment on Q Fever to help inform VS guidance to State Animal Health Officials, addressing questions related to judicious use/antimicrobial resistance, coordinating planning for swine influenza surveillance, supporting the response to human infections with triple reassortant swine influenza viruses, and identifying potential mitigations to minimize disease transmission at the wildlife-livestock interface. While challenging, I love the work I do! It is a perfect fit for me, given my experience in public health and animal health agencies.



Tracey Lynn
One Health Science Coordinator,
Veterinary Services (VS)-Centers for
Epidemiology and Animal Health



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How long have you worked at APHIS: I've spent 7 ½ years in APHIS, all at CEAH. I started with the National Surveillance Unit working on coordination of zoonotic disease surveillance, then moved to the Center for Emerging Issues where I worked with a team identifying global events of potential risk to U.S. animal health and agriculture. I've spent the last 3 ½ years as the Director for the Center for Emerging Issues, now called the Center for Animal Health Information and Analysis. Prior to working for APHIS, I worked for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Indian Health Service, and the State of Alaska Division of Public Health.

Education: I received my Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University, followed by a Master's Degree in Epidemiology/Veterinary Services from Washington State University. I also served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, which is an on-the-job training program for field investigation and public health epidemiology with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Most Memorable APHIS experience: It's always difficult to distill down to a single most memorable experience. If I have to choose just one, it would be when members of my team won the PPQ Deputy Administrator's Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection award for work done as part of an interagency team that provided Customs and Border Protection (CBP) port staff with annual pest risk rankings for international airline flights at the 28 busiest airports in the United States. The team developed national guidelines for passenger targeting, with a ranked list of targeting criteria, for distribution to CBP passenger analysis units in airports across the country. It was a great honor to see them recognized and awarded for their efforts.

Priorities for the coming months: The recent spate of foodborne and other zoonotic disease outbreaks are really highlighting the need to develop effective mechanisms for jointly managed epidemiologic investigations to prevent further disease transmission. As my first priority, I will be working with VS field staff and State officials to identify ways CEAH can provide support to them for on-farm and field investigations into zoonotic diseases to ensure we protect animal health, producers, and consumers.



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Last good book read: It's Not About the Bike - My Journey Back to Life, by Lance Armstrong. It's a fascinating (and entertaining) look at the power of hope and belief, and how you define the way you want to live your life.

Favorite movie: The Princess Bride

Hobbies: Skiing, training for triathlons (and occasionally competing in one), reading, cooking, knitting, and watching Auburn football!