



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Agriculture Fact Sheet

FACT SHEET

Threats to the U.S. Agriculture Industry

- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), agriculture is the largest industry and employment sector in the United States with more than \$1 trillion in annual economic activity (USDA Economic Research Service, February 2014).
- The greatest risks to the success of this industry are exotic pests and foreign animal diseases. Invasive species have caused \$138 billion annually in economic and environmental losses in the United States, including yield and quality losses for America's agriculture industry (USDA Wildlife Services: Economic and Ecological Impacts of Invasive Species, 2000).
- Each day, CBP helps to prevent the intentional and unintentional introduction of potentially harmful plant pests and foreign animal diseases into the United States at more than 300 ports of entry.



FY 2016 Agriculture Statistics

Passenger Inspections	23,200,264
Cargo Inspections.....	740,992
(Miscellaneous and Regulated)	
Quarantine Material Interceptions (QMI)	
Animal By-Product.....	12,656
Meat Products	433,319
Plant Material/Soil.....	1,326,397
Total QMI.....	1,772,372
(Number of Seizures)	
Pest Interceptions	
Submitted	152,850
Reportable Pests.....	61,873
Total Civil Violations	78,787

Data Source: Agriculture Quarantine Activity System

Workforce and Career Enhancement

In 2003, 1,573 agriculture specialists transitioned from USDA to CBP. Now, CBP deploys more than 2,400 agriculture specialists at 182 of the 328 ports of entry.





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Training

CBP and the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have continued to develop and use pest-detection training modules to strengthen inspection efforts since 2004. These include modules on the Asian gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), Khapra beetle (KB) (*Trogoderma granarium*), Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*), citrus greening disease (Huanglongbing), and wood packaging materials.

Agriculture Canine

In 1984, the USDA established its detector dog program, the "Beagle Brigade," at the Los Angeles International Airport, with one beagle trained to sniff out plants and animal products in checked luggage and carry-on items arriving on international flights. Beagles and beagle mixes are the preferred breed of dog at airports because of their keen sense of smell, non-threatening size, high food drive, and gentle disposition. In 2000, USDA started using larger dogs outside the passenger environment by employing Labrador retrievers; this launched the "Border Brigade" on the Mexican and Canadian borders, and the "Cargo Brigade" at CBP cargo inspection facilities at airports and seaports.



Canine Team Expansion

In 2003, approximately 75 canine teams were included when the Homeland Security Act transferred agriculture inspectors to CBP. Today, the number of CBP agriculture canine teams has grown to approximately 120 teams, providing screening at border crossings, preclearance locations, air passenger terminals, cruise terminals, cargo warehouses, and mail facilities that process international passengers and commodities. CBP agriculture canine teams initially train at the USDA's National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC). When the canine teams are deployed to the field, CBP performs and continually reinforces the training the canines received at NDDTC.



Pest Exclusion & Agriculture Safeguarding

The Khapra beetle is one of the world's most destructive stored-product pests. It feeds on a variety of dried materials, is resistant to insecticides, and can go long periods without food. Khapra beetles are not known to occur in the United States and its introduction into the U.S. could have serious consequences. The average Khapra beetle interceptions for CBP between 2007 and 2010 was 17 pests per year. CBP's Khapra beetle technology training launched in early 2010, led to increased interceptions of Khapra beetle by agriculture specialists. Confirmed Khapra beetle interceptions in 2011, 2012, and 2013 totaled nearly 200 each year, indicating the effectiveness of the training program.

Wood packaging material (WPM), typically used for transport, is a high risk source of pests of trees. Pests like the Asian Longhorned Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer were introduced to the U.S. with WPM. In order to minimize the risk, regulations require WPM to be heat treated or fumigated as per ISPM 15, and be marked with valid markings. Non-compliant WPM is denied entry into the United States.

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

