

# APEC Export Certification Workshop



## Product Certification: Using Export Certificates To Address Animal Health Concerns

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# Import Controls and Export Certification Requirements

- World Trade Organization member nations comply with the WTO's SPS Agreement.
- WTO members may impose import restrictions only as necessary.
- The standards established by the OIE are based on current and sound science.
- WTO/OIE members
  - Follow the international standards established by the OIE.
  - Base import restrictions on a transparent import risk analysis conducted in accordance with OIE guidelines.
- Goal: Balance “acceptable level of protection” while minimizing negative effects on trade



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# Conclusions: Import Controls and Export Certification Requirements

- Import controls should be appropriate and be based on international standards and sound science.
- Export certification provided should match the control needs of importing countries and be based on international standards and sound science.



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# Addressing Animal Health Concerns

## USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

- Consider commodity types
- Role of the certifying agency: export and sanitary certification for different commodity types
- National Center for Import and Export provides guidance to certifying officials
- APHIS Veterinary Services, animal health authority of the United States: Attests to the animal health status of the United States
- Public health attestations and certificates: Authority of other Agencies
- Collaborative role with other U.S. Government agencies:
  - USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS)
  - Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
  - USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
  - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)



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## Conclusions: Addressing Animal Health Concerns

- APHIS Veterinary Services issues export certificates for a wide variety of animal product commodities, addressing animal health concerns of importing countries, and complying with their import requirements.
- APHIS Veterinary Services works collaboratively with other certifying agencies so that their certificates address animal health concerns of importing countries.



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# What Are The Risks?

- Risks
  - Disease agents
  - Contaminants
  - Public health risk
  - Agricultural health risk
  - Animal health
- Exposure potential
  - To agriculture?
  - To livestock, pets, wildlife?



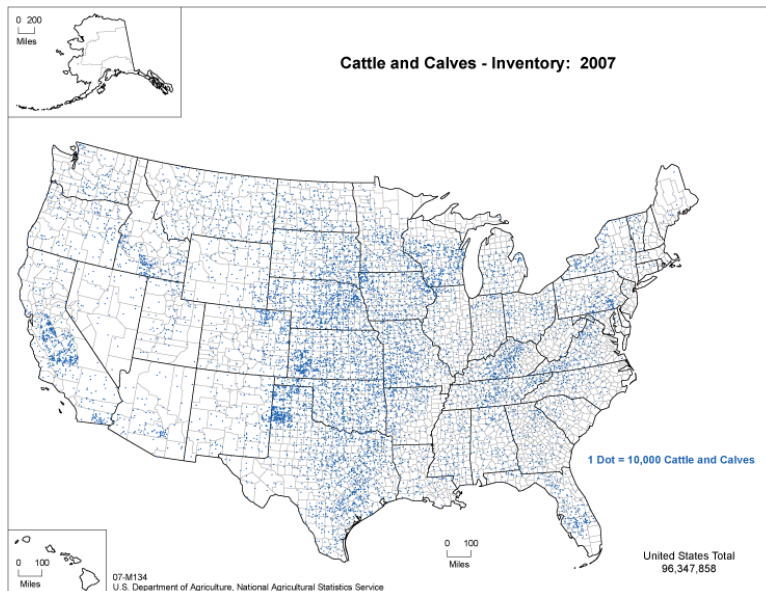
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# Conclusions: What Are The Risks?

- Importing country should consider if there is risk from the product to an animal population or to humans.

# What's at Risk for Agriculture?



- U.S. agriculture feeds the world
- Protecting the Nation's herds safeguards the food security of the U.S.
- We are called on to provide assurances to the world's consumers.

- U.S. Livestock and poultry receipts exceed \$100 billion per year.
- U.S. has world's largest fed-cattle industry & is world's largest beef producer



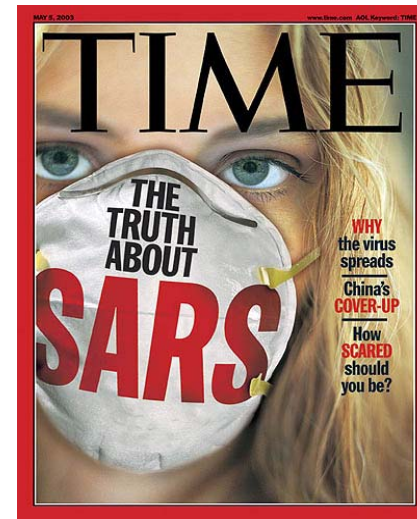
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# What's at Risk for People?

- 75% of new human diseases in the past 10 years are of zoonotic origin
- Many of these diseases have the potential to become global problems



# Certifying Agencies

- Animal health certificates issued by USDA APHIS Veterinary Services
  - Addresses animal disease risk
  - Limited in public health
    - ❖ APHIS does not have public health authority
  - Does not address plant health risk
- Export certificates issued by Agricultural Marketing Service
  - For shell eggs and dairy products
  - Address grading and public health
  - Can contain general and certain specific animal health statements authorized by USDA APHIS Veterinary Services
- Export certificates issued by Food Safety Inspection Service
  - For meat, meat products and processed egg products
  - Mandated certificates
  - Address public health, sanitation, labeling
  - Can contain general and certain specific animal health statements authorized by USDA APHIS Veterinary Services



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# Conclusions: Certifying Agencies

- Several national Agencies may be involved in export certification depending on their competency and authority.



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# Import Restrictions and Export Certification Requirements

## Consider these factors:

- Type of product (species of animal origin) and intended end-use.
- Disease pathogens of concern for the animal species.
- Transmissibility of these disease pathogens through the product (international standards; scientific knowledge about the disease pathogens).
- Disease transmissibility concerns related to cross-contamination (e.g., BSE- or foot-and-mouth disease related concerns).
- Mitigation of disease transmission risks, as appropriate, through measures such as heat processing or facility dedication.
- Employment of international standards pertaining to acceptance of disease status at the country, zone, compartment, or farm level, as appropriate, to mitigate risks not addressed through product processing or measures to prevent product contamination or cross-contamination.



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## Conclusions: Import Restrictions and Export Certification Requirements

- Import controls should be appropriate and be based on international standards and sound science.
- Export certification provided should match the control needs of importing countries and be based on international standards and sound science.



# Purpose and Use of Export Certificates

## Export certificates should:

- Provide assurances that:
  - Attest to general animal health status of exporting country.
  - Attest to health of source animals, if appropriate.
  - Attest to necessary risk mitigation measures: Product processing and manufacturing conditions, if appropriate.
  - No significant threat to animal populations or consuming public (in the case of zoonotic diseases).
- Can also be used to facilitate the re-export of products derived from the imported materials.



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## Conclusions: Purpose and Use of Export Certificates

- Provide assurances related to risk to animal (or human health) as appropriate, depending on risk and likely exposure
- Facilitate re-export of products based on imported products

# Export Certificate

- Just another piece of paper?
  - May not add value or be necessary
  - Required assurances related to risk and likely exposure
- A certificate should only be necessary if a risk has been indentified
  - Animal disease risk
  - Agricultural health risk
  - Public health risk
- If there is no risk, no certificate should be necessary.



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# Conclusions: Export Certificates

- Should only need an export certificate if it adds value and addresses risk



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# Alternatives to Export Certification

**Is there any significant risk from the product as presented or from the country of origin?**

- Should the product be deregulated?
- Methods to assure product safety for imported products containing animal origin ingredients
  - Product handling and processing
  - Product labeling
  - Product registration
  - If necessary: Export certificates
    - ❖ Free sale certificates
    - ❖ Animal health certification
    - ❖ Public health certification



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## Conclusions: Alternatives to Export Certification

- An export certificate may not add any value if the product as presented does not pose any risk.
- Alternatives may include product deregulation, evidence of origin, requirements addressing labeling, free sale certificates, export certification by most appropriate authority.



# Questions?

