



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Plant Protection and Quarantine



SMUGGLING INTERDICTION AND TRADE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

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WHO ARE WE?

- USDA- APHIS – PPQ – SITC
 - United States Department of Agriculture
 - ANIMAL PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
 - PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE
 - » SMUGGLING INTERDICTION AND TRADE COMPLIANCE



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APHIS Administrator

Civil Rights Enforcement
& Compliance Staff

Office of Emergency
Management
& Homeland Security

Animal Care

Biotechnology Regulatory Services

International Services

Plant Protection & Quarantine

Veterinary Services

Wildlife Services

Legislative and Public Affairs

MRP Business Services

Policy and Program Development



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Why Protect US Agriculture?

- Agro-business = \$1.24 T
- 1 in 6 jobs in the US are related to agriculture
- 1 case of BSE in the US on 12/03
\$2.8 B in one day
- FMD Outbreak in the U.K. = \$ 60 B



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PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE

Mission

Safeguard agriculture and natural resources from risks associated with the entry, establishment, or spread of animal and plant pests and noxious weeds.

Plant Protection Act, 2000

Ag. Bioterrorism Protection Act, 2002

Animal Health Protection Act, 2002



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Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Major Functions

- Policy
- Pest Detection and Eradication
- Pest Identification Services
- Permitting
- Facilitating International Trade
- Research → CPHST
 - Center for Plant Health Science and Technology
- Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance
- Support for Regulating Animal Products



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Plant Protection and Quarantine: Roles

Headquarters:

Office of the Deputy Administrator:

- **Leadership**

Emergency and Domestic Programs:

- **National Coordination for Crop Biosecurity**
- **Program Design & ICS Leadership**
- **Action and Regulatory Plans**
- **Off-Shore Pest Information System**
- **Communication**
- **Funding**



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Plant Protection and Quarantine: Roles Headquarters (cont.):

Plant Health Programs:

- **Select Agent Program / Permits**
- **Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance**
- **CBP Liaison**
- **Plant Safeguarding and Pest Identification**
- **Phytosanitary Issue Management**

Professional Development Center (PDC):

- **Training**
 - **Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)**
 - **Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**
 - **Incident Command System**



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Plant Protection and Quarantine: Roles

PPQ Regions and SPHD (State Plant Health Director):

- **Implementation of Response: Operations**
- **Coordination –Federal, State and Industry**
- **Resources – Human, Physical, and Fiscal**
- **Communication and Reporting**



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Plant Protection and Quarantine: Roles Center for Plant Health Science & Technology (CPHST):

- **Pest Risk Assessments**
- **Technical Working Groups**
- **Science-Based Solutions**
- **Survey and Detection**
- **Diagnostics**
 - **Development, Validation, Confirmation**
 - **Laboratory Accreditation**
 - **Technical Training**
- **Control and Eradication Technologies**

Federal and State Agencies: Partnerships

1. Prevention

2. Preparedness

3. Response

4. Recovery

Federal Agencies & Departments:

- **Other USDA Agencies**
 - I.e. FSIS, ARS, Forest Service
- **Department of Homeland Security – CBP**
- **Environmental Protection Agency**
- **Department of Interior – FWS**
- **Department of Justice – FBI**
- **Human Health Services – CDC**
- **Department of Defense**

Federal and State Agencies: Partnerships

1. Prevention

2. Preparedness

3. Response

4. Recovery

State Agencies:

- State Departments of Agriculture
- National Plant Board
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
- State Emergency Management Agencies

Industry and Stakeholders

1. Prevention

2. Preparedness

3. Response

4. Recovery

- **Partnership and Coordination**
- **Agricultural Critical Infrastructure**
- **Vulnerability Assessment**
- **Prioritization and Protective Measures**
- **Mitigation Strategies**

Pest Detection Efforts in Michigan

- Asian Longhorned Beetle surveys
- Surveys for various Bark beetles
- *Sirex noctilio*
 - Positive find in 2007- Michigan
- Plum Pox
 - Positive Find in 2005- Michigan
 - Variety effects plums and peaches only



Pest Eradication Efforts in Michigan

- Emerald Ash Borer
 - Containment
 - Biocontrol
 - Eradicate small populations
- European Snails
 - Found in Detroit Rail Yards
 - Brought into the US through foreign containers



Pest Identification Services

- Dr. Jim Zablotny in Romulus, MI
- Processes USDA and CBP pest identifications
- Part of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) with MSU
- Staff training as needed

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SITC Mission

To detect and prevent the unlawful entry and distribution of prohibited and/or non-compliant products that may harbor exotic plant and animal pests, disease or invasive species

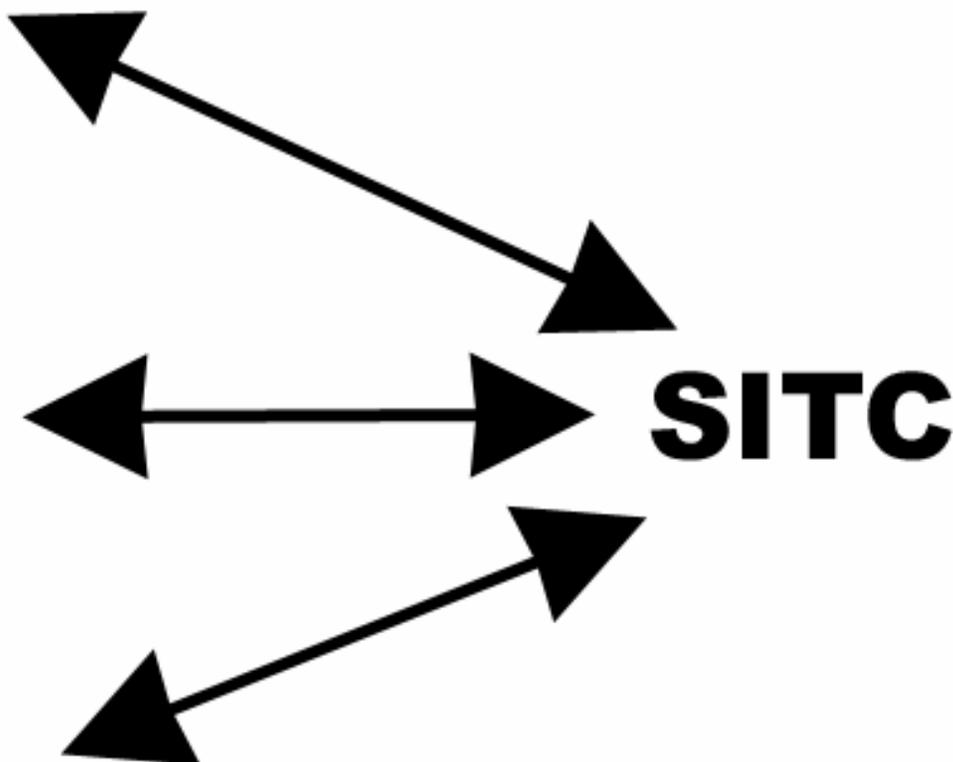


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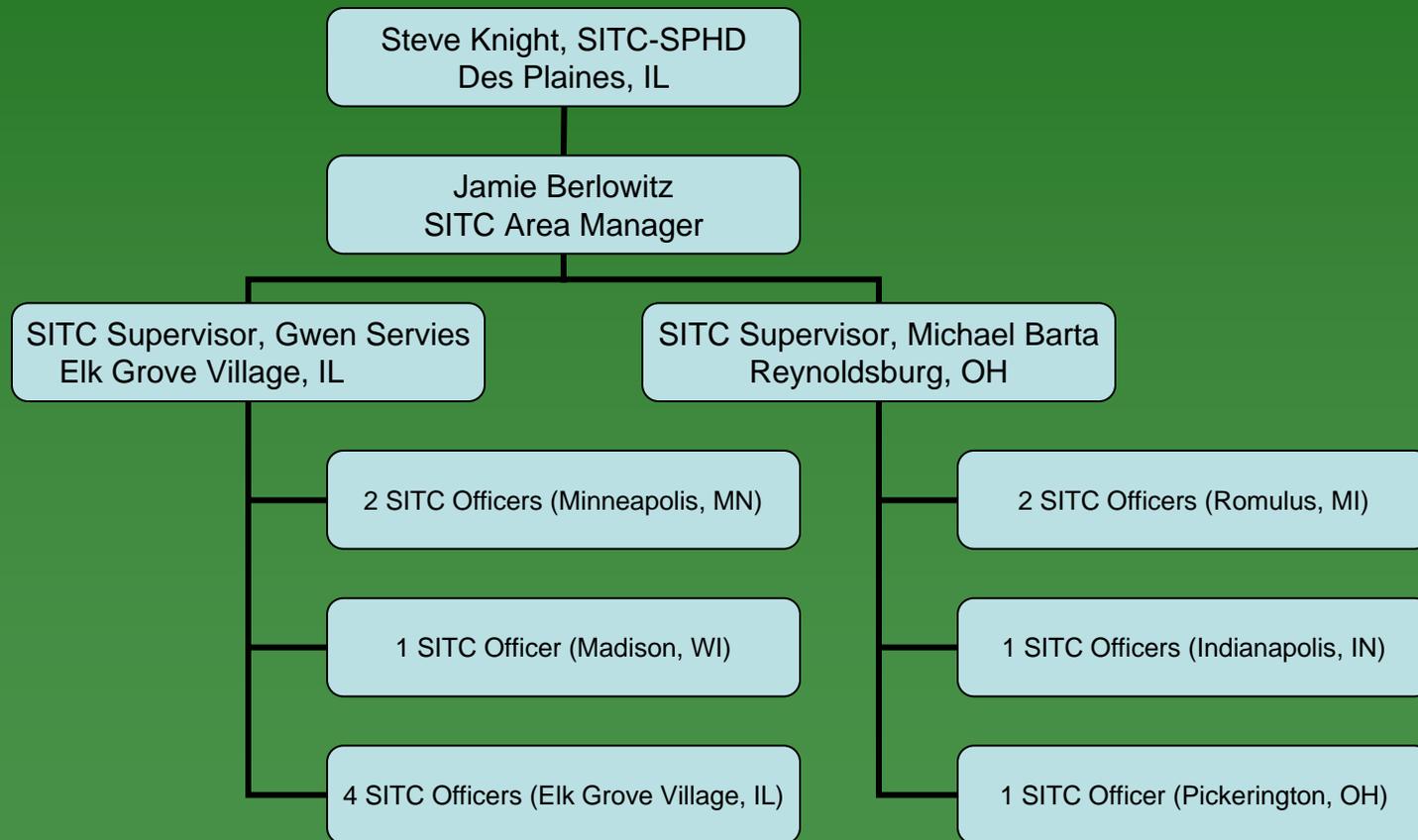
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**Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service**
Investigative and
Enforcement
Services



Our Unit at a Glance



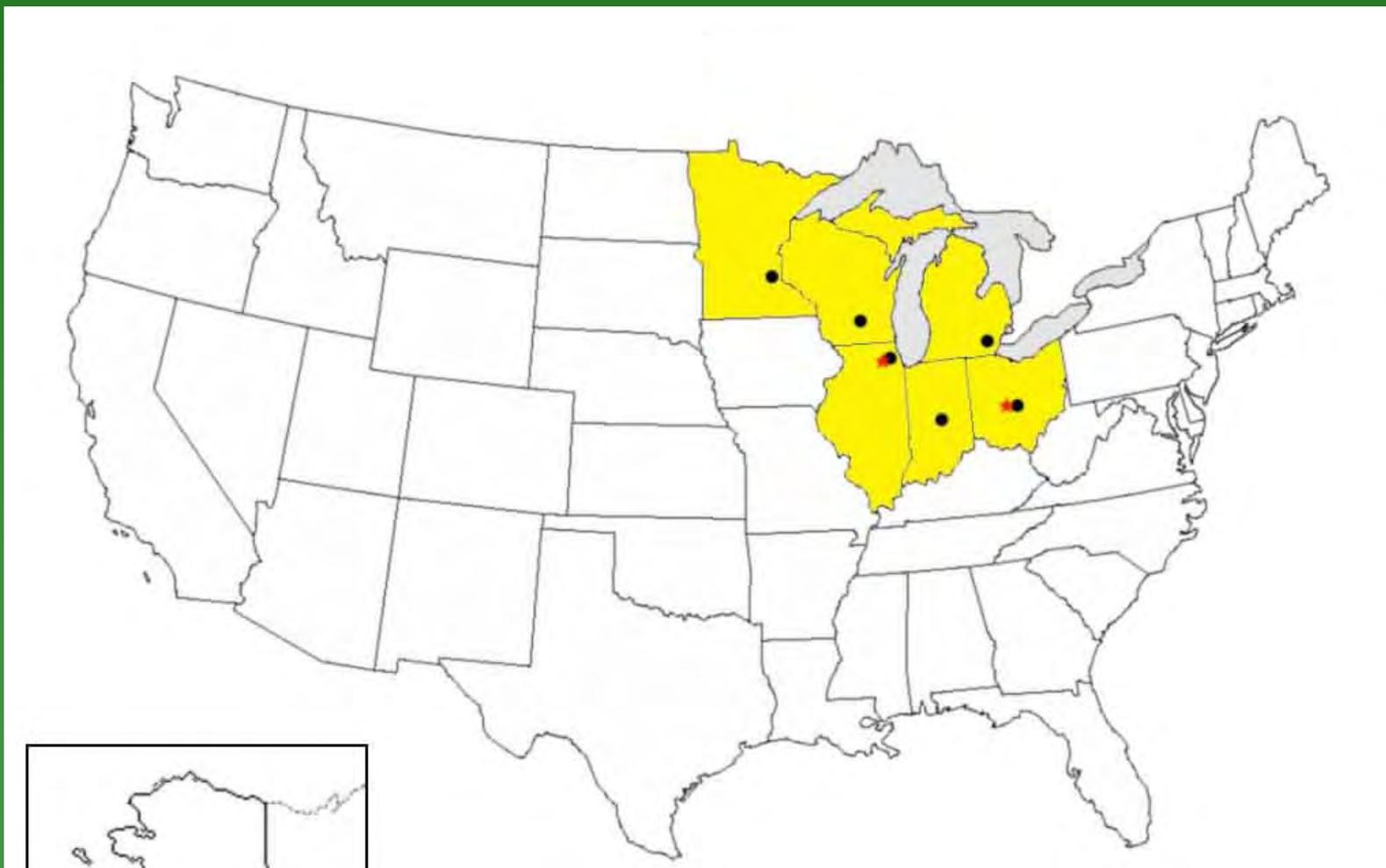


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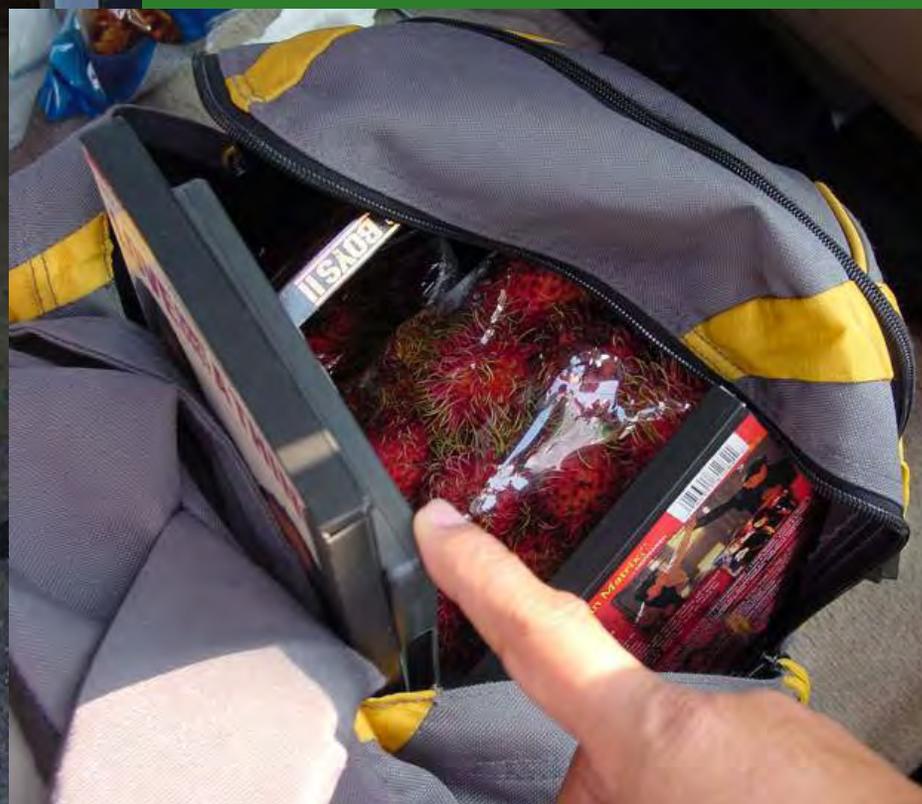
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Our Unit at a Glance



Who would smuggle agricultural commodities?





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Key Roles and Responsibilities of SITC

- Conduct inspections of commerce sites
 - Safeguards, seizes and destroys prohibited items
- Conducts traces of suspect prohibited/restricted materials
- Provides CBP with targeting information
- Conducts Special Operations at POEs and in commerce
 - Includes weigh station blitzes
- Works with PPQ Veterinary Regulatory Support to determine the enterability of animal products
- Collaborates and initiates investigations with IES and other federal, state and local partners (I.e. USDA OIG)



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Key Roles and Responsibilities of SITC

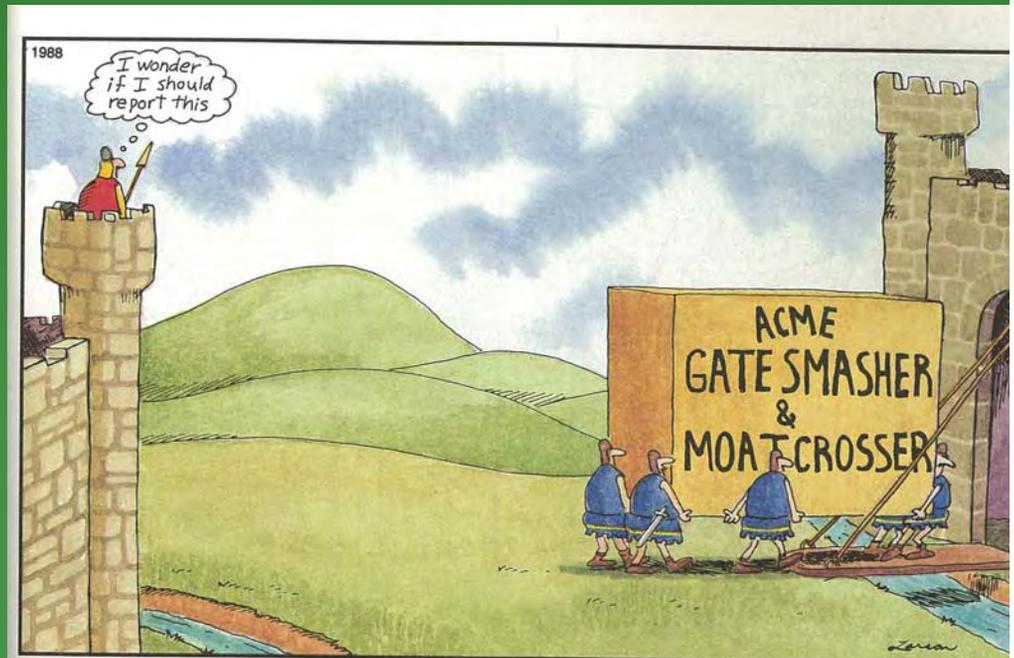
- Manages and oversees recalls/retractions as appropriate
- Provides the SPHD and Veterinary Services with potential hot zone information (targeted surveys)
- Liaison with other agencies
- Conducts Pathway analyses
- Outreach efforts
- Creates intelligence networks
- Agroterrorism Concerns

Interagency Work

- Proactive Approaches
 - Interagency meetings
 - Pest Risk Meetings
 - Chicago Food and Agriculture Enforcement Team
 - Special Operations
 - Site Visits
- Reactive Approaches
 - Specific Casework
 - Special Operations
 - Response to issues/complaints

Analytical Capabilities

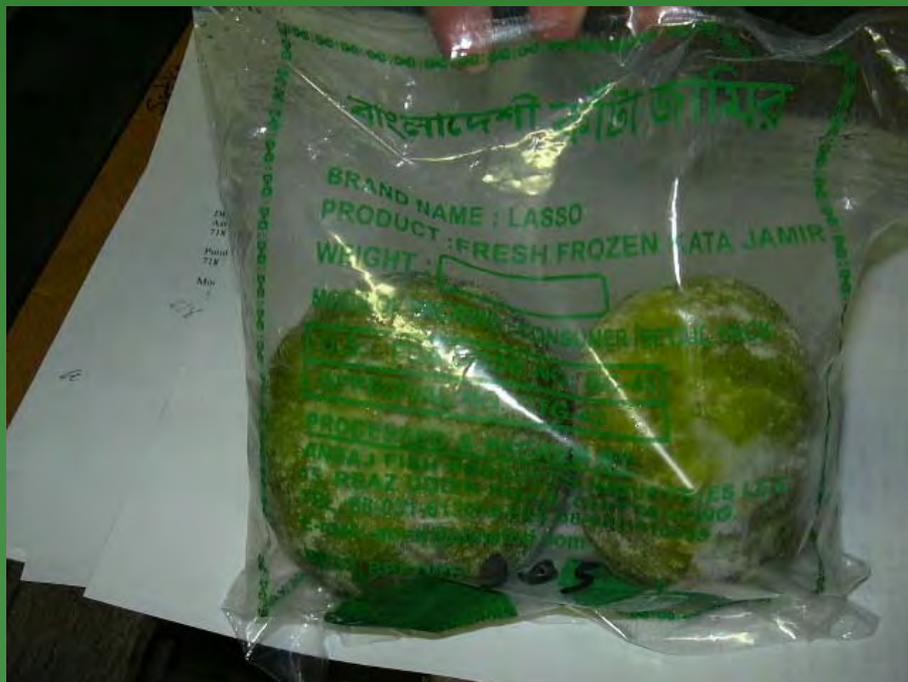
- Developing Intelligence from:
 - Other SITC Units
 - Interagency communication, coordination and cooperation
 - Confidential Informants
- SITC Operational Analysts
 - Support field staff
 - Data analysis
 - Investigatory support



SITC Regulatory Authorities

- 7 CFR Plants and Plant Products
PLANT PROTECTION ACT (2000)
- 9 CFR Animal Products
ANIMAL HEALTH PROTECTION ACT (2002)
- 50 CFR CITES Plants
 - CONVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

High Risk Smuggled Agricultural Commodities



Smuggled *Lablab* beans from the Dominican Republic





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Smuggled Prohibited Products



SITC and Plant Pests

Callidiellum villosulum

- A consumer complaint in Michigan
- Resulted in the Christmas Tree Recall
- Several major retailers had to recall thousands of “artificial” Christmas trees made with real wood.



Giant African Land Snails

- Common in the pet trade
- Found in many schools in MI, OH, WI (2003)
- 1966 Eradication efforts in Florida (> \$1 M)
 - 3 were smuggled from Hawaii
 - 10 years to eradicate 18,000+ snails



SITC and Plant Pests

- Ya Pear Recall
 - Infected with *Alternaria* sp. Fungus
 - USDA Changed regulations regarding Ya Pear imports



SITC and Plant Pests

- SITC commonly finds various plant pests in the pet trade
 - Safeguards commodities
 - Pursues investigations when appropriate with IES



Federal Noxious Weeds

- Often found for sale as food items
 - Requires permits for legal entry and Interstate movement



Key Animal Diseases of Concern

- ASF African Swine Fever
- BSE Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
- CSF Classical Swine Fever (Hog Cholera)
- END Exotic Newcastle Disease
- FMD Food and Mouth Disease
- HPAI Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1)
- SVD Swine Vesicular Disease



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HPAI / H5N1





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Joint Agency Avian Influenza Plan Homeland Security Council Agenda Item 5.2.5.5

- Involves USDA, DHS, DOJ, and DOI
- Plan to decrease smuggling and further distribution of prohibited agricultural commodities and products with Influenza Risk
- Enhancement of risk management
- Increased anti-smuggling activities

Poultry Products found in Commerce



Poultry Products found in Commerce



HPAI/H5N1 Outreach Efforts

KEEP Bird Flu Out OF THE UNITED STATES

It's illegal to smuggle birds – wild and domestic – and their products into the United States.

If you do, it will cost you:

- Up to **\$250,000** fine and **5 years in prison** for any individual
- Up to **\$500,000** fine and **5 years in prison** for any business or organization

CALL 1-800-BE ALERT to report bird smuggling or undeclared bird products brought into the United States.

www.avianflu.gov

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*Chicken feet mislabeled as jellyfish—an example of a **PROHIBITED** product*

*Bouillon cubes—an example of a **RESTRICTED** product that can be imported under certain conditions*

*Frozen agnoli—an example of a **PROHIBITED** product*

SMUGGLED POULTRY AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS increase the risk of introducing serious agricultural pests and diseases like the most severe form of avian influenza, or “bird flu,” into the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance Program needs your help. Some poultry products are **RESTRICTED** and can enter the United States legally under certain conditions,

while others are **PROHIBITED** because of the risk of introducing diseases.

Call USDA’s Anti-Smuggling Hotline at **1-800-877-3835** to

- find out which products are prohibited or restricted, or
- make an anonymous report of a business illegally importing poultry products.

For more information, visit
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/international_safeguarding/site/index.shtml

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DON'T SMUGGLE ME... I COULD BE SICK

STOP BIRD SMUGGLING BEFORE DISEASES TAKE FLIGHT.

Deadly avian diseases, such as Avian influenza, (H5N1), Exotic Newcastle Disease and Parrot Fever are a serious threat to domestic and wild birds. These harmful diseases have killed or sickened millions of birds in other countries. Smuggled birds are brought into the United States without undergoing inspection and/or quarantine – increasing the chance that these diseases will infect the U.S. bird population and spread to people or other animals.

You can help keep our bird populations free from foreign disease. Call **1-800-BE ALERT** to report bird smuggling or undeclared bird products brought into the United States.

You can also help by declaring any of the following you carry into the United States with you:

- Poultry or other live birds, including pet birds
- Processed poultry or game birds (frozen or fresh)
- Eggs
- Other products derived from poultry and other birds, such as unprocessed game trophies and feathers

Smuggling also decreases the population of rare birds in the wild, and many birds die as a result of techniques used to hide them from inspection.

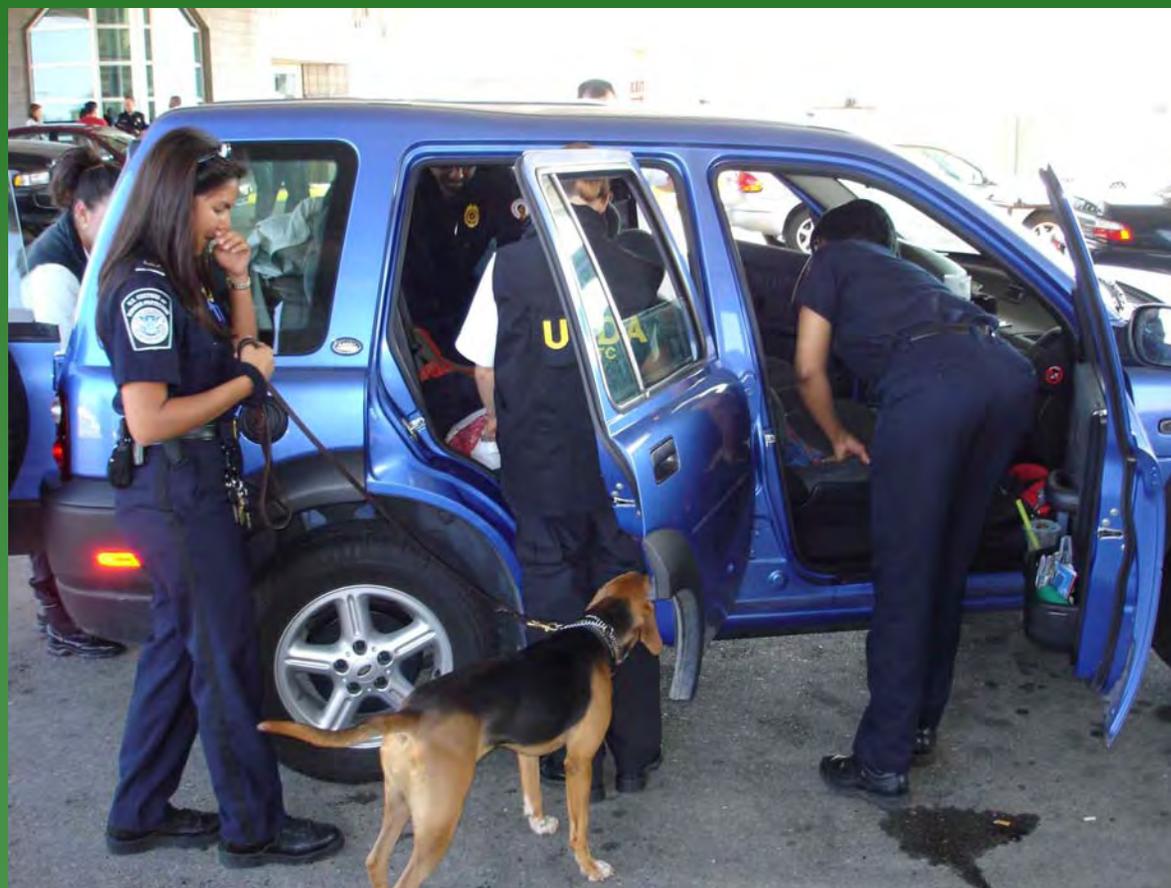
WWW.CBP.GOV

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Interagency Work



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Interagency Work



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Interagency Work



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Interagency Work



SITC Officers at Work



SITC Officers at Work





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Relevant Websites

- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/

- Plant Protection and Quarantine

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/

- Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/international_safeguarding/sitc/index.shtml



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Local SITC Contacts:

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