



Threats to the U.S. Agriculture Industry

- Agriculture accounts for more than \$1 trillion in annual economic activity, notes the USDA Economic Research Service, February 2014. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), agriculture is the largest industry and employment sector in the United States.
- The greatest risks to 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, states the USDA Wildlife Services Economic and Ecological Impacts of Invasive Species, 2000 study.
- Each day, CBP helps to prevent the intentional and unintentional introduction of potentially harmful plant pests and foreign animal diseases from entering the United States at more than 300 ports-of-entry.



FY 2015 Agriculture Statistics

Passenger Inspections	23,431,683
Cargo Inspections	713,064
	(Miscellaneous and Regulated)
Quarantine Material Interceptions (QMI)	
Animal By-Product	15,085
Meat Products	412,032
Plant Material/Soil.....	1,283,461
Total QMI	1,710,578
	(Number of Seizures)
Pest Interceptions	
Submitted	169,533
Reportable Pests.....	70,172
Total Civil Violations	85,602
Data Source: Agriculture Quarantine Activity System	

Training

Since 2004, CBP and the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service have continued to develop and use pest-detection training to strengthen inspections. 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.



Workforce and Career Enhancement

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



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 dogs 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 more than 118 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. When the canine teams are deployed to the field, they perform and continually reinforce the training they received at the center.



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 the Khapra beetle. Confirmed Khapra beetle interceptions in 2011, 2012 and 2013 totaled nearly 200 each year, indicating an effective training program.

Wood packaging material (WPM) is a high risk source of tree pests, like the Asian Longhorned Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer. In order to reduce the risk, regulations require the material to be heat treated or fumigated as per ISPM 15 and marked with valid markings. Non-compliant WPM is denied entry into the U.S.

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

