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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FISCAL YEAR 1960 PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION

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COVER PAGE

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FISCAL YEAR 1960

PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION

Work Performed During Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1960

The first responsibility of the Plant Quarantine Division is to prevent the entry into the United States of destructive foreign plant pests. The Division is also charged with the responsibility of preventing the spread of pests from offshore U. S. areas to the mainland and between such areas and shares in the responsibility for preventing the spread of plant pests within the continental United States. In addition, inspectors of the Division examine and certify American-grown plants and plant products to meet the plant quarantine import requirements of countries of destination.

To meet these responsibilities, the Division has inspection staffs at major ocean, Great Lakes, air, and border ports in the continental United States and in Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the American Virgin Islands. Plant quarantine inspectors at these ports, working in cooperation with Customs, examine ships, airplanes, vehicles, trains, baggage, and mail to enforce quarantine against the entry of foreign pests. They also inspect cargoes of restricted material and apply treatments and other safeguards to insure that harmful pests are not brought in with such cargoes. In several instances plant quarantine clearance is effected in foreign countries, which has the advantage of eliminating pests at origin - this includes the inspection of flower bulbs in a number of European countries, the treatment of citrus and other fruits in Mexico, and the preflight inspection of aircraft prior to departure for the United States from Nassau.

The spread of pests is closely associated with the movement of people and goods about the world. It does not follow, however, that the danger of new foreign pests being introduced into the United States is in direct proportion to the volume for foreign traffic and commerce entering the country. In Fiscal Year 1960 a total of 30,230 lots of plant pests were taken by plant quarantine inspectors at ports of entry. This was an increase of 4,934, or 19.5%, over the preceding year, a rate of increase $6\frac{1}{2}$ times the rate of increase in entries of people. Timewise, an important plant pest was prevented from entering the country at an average of once every 17

minutes during the year. The insects, plant diseases, snails, nematodes, and mites intercepted included many of the world's most destructive pests of food and fiber crops, forests and ornamentals. Fruit flies of economic importance included:

Mediterranean fruit fly....	173
Mexican fruit fly	170
Oriental fruit fly	10
Olive fly.....	52
West Indian fruit fly	120

This was an increase of 31.5% over last year in the interception of these pests.

Other important pest interceptions included:

Black spot of citrus.....	109
Cancrosis B (citrus)	8
Chilean grape mite	41
Citrus black fly	17
Citrus canker.....	139
European cherry fruit fly...	20
Golden nematode	19
Khapra beetle.....	131
Lentil rust.....	6
Mediterranean land snail..	75
Pink bollworm	15
Sweet orange scab.....	97
Yanone (Japanese citrus) scale	313

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Mexican border traffic. In 1960 over 22.5 million vehicles crossed into the United States from Mexico through border ports, an increase of 1.5 million over 1959. This compares with the average increase of a million a year, this upward trend having existed since shortly after World War II. At Nogales, Arizona - the principal port for the entry of Mexican winter vegetables, a total of 11,274 railway carloads and 6,777 truckloads (a total equivalent of 20,000 carloads) were given plant quarantine clearance. The trend of recent years toward shipment by trucks rather than by rail continued to develop.

Khapra beetle. Since 1951, when khapra beetle infestation was found on a ship, 122 additional vessels have been found infested, some on more than one voyage. Of these 122 vessels, 85 were found this year, 43 in the last three months. Four ships were reported

from Great Lakes ports since the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Infestations have been found in the non-cargo areas of 60 of the 122 vessels and with cargoes or in the cargo areas of 40 vessels, necessitating fumigation and other safeguard measures. The khapra beetle was also found this year in one plane and in one mail package. Port findings indicate that this pest may be found associated with practically any cargo, ranging from automobiles and steel products to crude rubber and gums as well as such known food hosts as rice and peanuts. In view of the recorded findings of khapra beetle in certain cargoes from Ceylon, India, Pakistan, and Sudan, the Division has requested our Agricultural Attaches in these countries to point out to appropriate officials and shippers the advantage of preshipment fumigation. Indications are that some success can be expected in this regard. The actual number of khapra beetle infestations found during 1960 were 200% greater than in 1959. Added emphasis was given during the year to the inspection of freight cars and trucks from Mexico for the khapra beetle which temporarily infested limited areas of that country and is now believed eradicated.

Preflight clearance of aircraft. The inauguration in 1960 of clearance of passengers and aircraft in Nassau prior to departure on scheduled nonstop flights for the United States has been an effective quarantine and traffic facilitating procedure. The actual volume of precleared traffic greatly exceeded the volume estimated when the procedure began early in the year. Plans were made in cooperation with U. S. Customs for inaugurating a similar service in Bermuda but were suspended because of lack of necessary facilities. These plans were revived late in 1960 for further consideration and an inauguration date was set for the autumn of 1961. Passengers receiving plant quarantine clearance in Honolulu and San Juan prior to flight to the mainland numbered 912,301, an increase of over 21% above the previous year. The increased use of large jet aircraft with larger passenger capacities has greatly intensified the inspection problem by concentrating large workloads, since larger numbers of people must be cleared within short periods before scheduled departure times.

St. Lawrence Seaway. The opening of the Seaway to ocean-going vessels last year added a new avenue through which foreign pests might enter the country - this time directly into the center of one of our richest agricultural areas. The danger of pest introduction via the Seaway is primarily from (1) incidental infestation or contamination of general cargo, (2) infested or infected plant products and meats in ships stores, and (3) infested or infected plant materials in ships garbage. Passenger baggage, one of the really serious threats of pest entry, is not yet developed into a serious problem in this area since foreign ships using the Seaway are primarily

freighters. Also, commercial shipments of plants and plant products, livestock, and animal products are likewise not yet entering to the point of creating a difficult problem. It is expected, however, that the development of new and enlarged facilities now under way will attract additional shipping into lake ports. The Division is planning accordingly.

Extending first line of defense. Significant progress was made during the year in extending the first line of defense against the entry of foreign plant pests into foreign areas through international co-operation. The normal "first line" is the inspection and related activities of some 500 Division inspectors stationed at the various ports of entry, augmented materially by the assistance of other official agencies and the public, acting individually and as groups.

The finding of khaprabeetle infested ships in St. Lawrence Seaway ports gave impetus to the initiation of a day by day exchange of information between the Plant Quarantine Division and the Canadian Plant Protection Division on khapra beetle findings in international commerce. As this program developed the Defensa de Agricola of Mexico became a participant.

The spread of the Mediterranean fruitfly in Central America was also responsible for specific international efforts, in this instance to prevent a northward spread via air traffic and the Inter-American Highway. This involved conferences between representatives of the Plant Quarantine Division and the Defensa de Agricola of Mexico. At the request of the Mexican Government a Division inspector who speaks Spanish fluently was temporarily assigned to Mexico City to initiate a plant quarantine training program. This will result in mutual protection of the two countries. Additional assistance in preventing the Mediterranean fruitfly was afforded by the United Nations through its Food and Agriculture area office in Costa Rica. The FAO Costa Rican headquarters, with some technical advice from the Plant Quarantine Division, sponsored discussions which lead to a strengthening of plant quarantine legislation in several Central American countries.

During the year the Division continued its practice of communicating with the appropriate authorities of various countries, as conditions required, regarding interpretations of regulations, specific problems of pest risk, and associated matters, in order that the commerce in plant and plant products into and from the United States might flow with a maximum of security against plant pest dissemination and the practical minimum of regulatory impediments.

Statistical Summaries

The following statistical summaries of activities of the Plant Quarantine Division appear on the succeeding pages:

Table 1.	Airplane Inspection Activities
Table 2.	Ship Inspection Activities
Table 3.	Mexican Border Inspection Activities
Table 4.	Foreign Mail Inspection
Table 5.	Transit Inspection
Table 6.	Cargo Inspection
Table 7.	Quarantine Material Interceptions
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	Fruits and Vegetables
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	Other Inspection
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	Departmental Non-Propagative Material
Table 11.	Inspection of Plant Material in Europe
Table 12.	Fruit Treated in Mexico
Table 13.	Comparative Summary of Activities for F. Y. 1955-1960

TABLE 1.--AIRPLANE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1960

Origin	Airplanes				Cargo (Pieces of)
	Inspected	With Prohibited Material	Passengers Processed	Baggage (Pieces of)	
Foreign.....	112,705	42,616	3,287,492	8,474,817	737,412
Domestic <u>1</u> /.....	569	14	4,474	8,864	792
Predeparture <u>2</u> /.....	18,554	5,030	912,301	2,141,959	92,933
Other.....	7,587	81	73,196	150,717	9
Total.....	139,415	47,741	4,277,463	10,776,357	831,146
Australia and New Zealand <u>3</u> /.....	453	99	23,713	57,765	466

1/ Planes originating in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and landing on the mainland.

2/ Planes inspected in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Bahama Islands prior to departure for the mainland of the United States

3/ Predeparture inspection services performed in Hawaii, under the provisions of a Cooperative Agreement, prior to departure to Australia and New Zealand.

TABLE 2.--SHIP INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1960

Origin	Ships			
	Inspected	With Prohibited Material	Passengers Processed	Pieces of Baggage Inspected
Foreign.....	58,648	21,975	1,037,307	3,739,476
Domestic 1/.....	1,746	411	55,109	248,862
Total.....	60,394	22,386	1,092,416	3,988,338

1/ Ships originating in Hawaii and Puerto Rico and docking at mainland ports.

TABLE 3.--MEXICAN BORDER INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1960

Vehicles	Coaches and Pullmans	Braceros 1/	Baggage	Freight Cars		
				Inspected	Fumigated	Cleaned
22,656,765	1,238	430,177	7,260,498	66,510	3	1,424

1/ Mexican Agricultural Laborers entering United States for seasonal work under contract.

TABLE 4.--FOREIGN MAIL INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1960

Inspected	Of Plant Quarantine Interest <u>1/</u>	Entry Under Permit	Refused Entry
37,903,668	209,352	16,097	1,274

1/ Restricted articles, such as plants, plant products, plant pests and soil.

TABLE 5.--TRANSIT INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1960 1/

Shipments Inspected	Federal Violations Reported	Shipments Reported to States
719,077	204	638

1/ The interstate movement of plants, plant products, and other regulated articles.

TABLE 6.--CARGO INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1960

Entries Under Permit	Misc. Man Hours Inspection <u>1/</u>	Packages Treated or Cleaned <u>2/</u>	Export Certification Inspection	
			Export Certificates Issued	Containers Shipped
82,815	44,630	1,831,688	34,715	23,531,737

1/ Inspection of non-regulated cargo shipments for pest risks.

2/ This does not represent products treated aboard ship while en route to the United States.

TABLE 7.--QUARANTINE MATERIAL INTERCEPTIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1960 1/

Baggage	Cargo	Mail	Quarters	Stores	Total
192,773	2,301	2,002	17,003	100,288	314,367

1/ Plants, plant products and other regulated articles refused entry.

TABLE 8.--PLANT PEST INTERCEPTIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1960

Kind	Consumption	Non-Entry	Propagation	Miscellaneous	Local	Total
Insects.....	<u>1/</u> 11,787	4,646	5,156	184	2,294	24,067
Diseases <u>6/..</u>	1,939	3,334	1,772	54	296	7,395
Other.....	405	108	832	13	32	1,390
Total...	14,131	8,088	7,760	251	2,622	32,852

1/ Pests found on material of foreign origin which is to be used for food, processing or manufacturing.

2/ Pests infesting or infecting material found in ship and plane stores.

3/ Pests found in material entering for propagation.

4/ Pests found in transit inspection and export certification.

5/ Pests found in surveys in vicinity of ports of entry.

6/ Diseases includes nematodes.

TABLE 9.--INSPECTION ACTIVITIES CONFINED TO HAWAII, PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS, FISCAL YEAR 1960

Fruits and Vegetables

Item	Certified		Uncertified		Entered
	Inspection Basis	Treatment Basis	Passed	Refused	
Shipments.....	4,093	1,110	8,436	9	1,060
Containers.....	435,089	155,610	473,885	668	4,815
Pounds <u>1/</u>	25,884	-----	224,030	---	244,553

1/ Represents bulk shipments only of certified and uncertified material and all shipments from British Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands of the U. S.

Domestic Mail Packages

	Total Handled	Opened	Certified	Refused
Certified for Movement in Mainland....	1,222,350	217,747	217	404

Other Inspection

	Automobiles	Cut Flowers and Leis	Express Packages
Hold Baggage			
18,243	4,802	399,276	17,388

TABLE 10.---ACTIVITIES PERFORMED AT SPECIAL INSPECTION STATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1960

Departmental Propagative Material Importations 1/

Item	Entered	Postentry Quarantine <u>2/</u>	Treated	Refused Entry
Shipments.....	943	209	603	-----
Plant Units.....	24,435	6,735	8,232	-----
Seeds (Pounds).....	2,381	39	2,029	-----

1/ Regulated material imported and grown under United States Department of Agriculture sponsorship.
2/ Materials to be grown under conditions of quarantine isolation for a period of time after importation under continued PQ-State surveillance.

Other Propagative Material Importations

Item	Entered	Postentry Quarantine <u>1/</u>	Treated	Refused Entry
Shipments.....	8,113	721	6,392	172
Plant Units.....	8,568,331	746,260	4,219,330	7,124
Seeds (Pounds).....	91,181	-----	89,687	52

1/ Material to be grown under conditions of quarantine isolation for a period of time after importation under continued PQ-State surveillance.

Departmentally-Grown Material

Shipments	Inspected	Units	Seeds (Pounds)	Treated
Domestic.....	2,420	77,977	4,392	304
Foreign.....	1,996	28,859	5,690	827

District of Columbia Regulations

Shipments	Inspected	Treated	D. C. Violations
Entering D. C.....	6,721	2	1
Leaving D. C.....	5,542	177	---

Departmental Non-Propagative Material

Number of Lots Treated..... 2,110

TABLE 11.--INSPECTION OF PLANT MATERIAL IN EUROPE, FISCAL YEAR 1960 ^{1/}

Name of Country	Bulbs		Number of Onion Sets	Quarts of Cormels	Pounds of Witloof or Chicory
	Number of Shipments	Number of Bulbs			
Belgium.....	326	13,966,650	-----	-----	865,828
France.....	44	891,050	-----	-----	-----
Germany.....	18	1,040,150	-----	-----	-----
Italy.....	11	733,285	-----	-----	-----
Netherlands.....	4,885	514,199,808	117,803,800	2,579	-----
Total.....	5,284	530,860,943	117,803,800	2,579	865,828

^{1/} Preshipment inspection and clearance of Plant Material in countries of origin performed under Cooperative Agreements.

TABLE 12.--FRUIT TREATED IN MEXICO, FISCAL YEAR 1960 ^{1/}

Kind of Fruit	Mangos	Oranges	Tangerines
Pounds.....	391,694	11,490,304	7,892,336

^{1/} Fruit treated under supervision of plant quarantine inspectors to permit shipment into the United States.

TABLE 13.--COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (1955 - 1960)

Item	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
SHIPS						
Inspected.....	51,757	50,718	54,642	55,348	58,995	60,394
With Prohibited Material.....	14,443	15,135	17,544	17,892	22,169	22,386
Passengers.....	1,264,992	1,079,498	1,039,993	1,007,248	1,105,225	1,092,416
Baggage Inspected.....	2,981,907	3,116,675	3,281,556	3,098,998	3,486,640	3,988,338
PLANES						
Inspected.....	88,873	96,915	110,328	120,741	133,723	139,415
Hawaii to Aust. and N. Z.....	332	436	616	490	550	453
With Prohibited Material.....	30,239	37,296	42,404	43,208	46,868	47,741
Passengers.....	2,064,645	2,478,079	2,990,740	3,666,355	3,764,816	4,277,463
Baggaged Inspected.....	4,592,254	5,880,433	7,535,088	8,781,520	9,733,480	10,776,357
Cargo Inspected.....	499,075	573,116	830,424	786,381	932,091	831,146
MAIL INSPECTION						
Packages.....	3,253,591	3,138,053	7,779,620	35,930,743	1,337,391,885	37,903,668
Packages released under Permit	7,114	6,887	6,311	7,389	16,011	16,097
Packages refused under Entry..	1,552	1,437	1,795	2,029	1,464	1,274
TRANSIT INSPECTION						
Shipments Inspected.....	881,097	975,098	2,503,269	805,783	729,174	719,077
Federal Violations.....	570	426	1,034	330	327	204
Shipments reported to States..	1,056	624	713	643	396	638

1/ Increase is due to the adoption of a more accurate method of counting packages in the fiscal year 1958, 1959 and 1960.

TABLE 13.--COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (1955 - 1960)--Continued

Item	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
MEXICAN BORDER TRAFFIC INSP.						
Vehicles Entering.....	15,240,649	17,262,188	18,453,115	19,434,535	21,119,747	22,656,765
Baggage Inspected.....	4,107,413	4,640,249	4,787,488	5,387,531	8,111,060	7,260,498
Freight Cars Entering.....	85,768	101,167	106,355	89,055 ^{1/}	70,479	66,510
Freight Cars Fumigated.....	106	155	65	56	20	3
Coaches and Pullmans Entering.	2,265	2,191	2,253	1,488	947	1,238
Shipments Ctfd. for Entry on the Mainland.....	11,726	13,240	13,522	14,809	4,045	4,093
Shipments Ctfd. for Entry on the Mainland after Treatment..	2,249	2,167	1,994	2,438	1,354	1,110
Entries of Material under Permit	68,586	77,617	68,861	68,647	79,731	82,815
Export Certificates Issued.....	34,784	45,524	47,592	50,072	36,372	34,715
Packages Cleaned and Treated....	1,147,308	1,715,050	2,070,180	1,326,189	1,614,016	1,831,688
Miscellaneous Inspection - Man Hours.....	17,584	21,502	31,297	30,414	37,209	44,630
Plant Pest Interceptions 2/.....	18,504	17,504	15,058	18,198	25,296	30,230
Quarantine Material Interceptions	223,095	251,809	290,959	311,391	319,713	314,367

1/ Decrease in number of freight cars entering is due to the discontinuance of counting oil tank cars during the fiscal year 1958. Oil tank cars in previous years are estimated to be approximately 20% of the total freight cars entered.

2/ Does not include local pest interceptions.