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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FISCAL YEAR 1964

PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1964
PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION

The function of the Plant Quarantine Division is to safeguard the agricultural and horticultural interests of the United States by preventing the entry of foreign insect pests and plant diseases. To protect the Nation's food and fiber resources, Federal plant quarantine laws and regulations prohibit or restrict the entry into this country of foreign plant pests and plants, plant products, soil or other materials or conveyances capable of carrying plant pests or constituting a pest hazard. The following aids have been provided for the enforcement of these laws and regulations: Port inspection; approved procedures and facilities for treating restricted imports when necessary to eliminate pest risk; refusal of entry or seizure and disposal of restricted or prohibited articles found entering the country in violation of regulations; and legal penalties for willful violation of regulations. Authority for the Division's activities is contained in the following Acts:

The Plant Quarantine Act (7 U.S.C. 154) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to impose restrictions or prohibitions on the importation of plants, and plant products, including nursery stock for propagation, fruits, vegetables, cotton, and other plants and plant products, for the purpose of excluding new and dangerous insect pests and plant diseases.

The Federal Plant Pest Act (7 U.S.C.A. 150aa) forbids the importation of a plant pest, irrespective of its association with plant material or other hosts. As an emergency measure, the Secretary of Agriculture may seize, quarantine, treat, destroy, or otherwise dispose of, any product or article of any character whatsoever, or means of conveyance, which he has reason to believe contains a dangerous plant pest. The Secretary is also authorized to issue regulations requiring inspection of products and articles of any character whatsoever and means of conveyance, when he deems it necessary to prevent dissemination in the United States of plant pests.

The Mexican Border Act (7 U.S.C. 149) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the entry from Mexico of all vehicles, freight, express, baggage, and other materials that may carry insect pests and plant diseases.

The Department of Agriculture Organic Act (7 U.S.C. 147a) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with States, political subdivisions, farmers associations, and similar organizations and individuals to carry out operations or measures to eradicate or retard the spread of insect pests, plant diseases and

nematodes, and to cooperate with the Governments of Canada and Mexico or local Canadian or Mexican authorities to control incipient or emergency outbreaks of insect pests or plant diseases. Another section of the Act authorizes the Secretary to provide for the inspection and certification of domestic plants and plant products to meet the phytosanitary requirements of foreign countries.

The Honeybee Act (7 U.S.C.A. 281) prohibits the importation into the United States of all adult honeybees of the genus Apis.

The Terminal Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 166) provides, under specified conditions, for inspection by State plant pest officials at mail terminals of plants and plant products moving interstate. This permits the States, in cooperation with the Post Office Department, to protect themselves against the entry of infested or infected plants or plant products through the mails.

Plant Quarantine Inspection represents a vital protection to the Nation's crops, forests, and ornamentals from invasion by foreign plant pests and diseases. Also the inspection and certification for export of agricultural commodities is an important service in maintaining expanding foreign markets for U. S. farm products. The frequency of foreign arrivals, the number of travelers and the volume of goods entering the country -- all are factors that establish the level of plant quarantine services necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of injurious foreign pests.

Activities of the Plant Quarantine Division are performed in close cooperation and collaboration with the Bureau of Customs, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the U. S. Public Health Service. On the Mexican Border, inspectors of the four Services are mutually authorized to inspect arriving passengers at primary inspection points and to refer to the appropriate agency at a secondary clearance area those passengers requiring more detailed inspection.

The Division works closely with research divisions of ARS for the purpose of developing practical and effective means of fumigation, sterilization, heat or cold treatment, or other means of treating nursery stock, other restricted items or general cargo. Such treatments must be effective in destroying the accompanying pests without injuring the product or article.

Every major element of the Plant Quarantine Division workload increased during Fiscal Year 1964, reaching an all-time high. Total workload was up 20.2 percent over the previous year. One contributing factor was a 3 million increase in the number of persons entering the United States from foreign countries. Even more significant increases occurred in other workload elements, including number of carriers, volume of incoming cargo inspected and certification of U. S. agricultural products for export.

Carriers: The inspection of carriers arriving at air, sea and border ports of entry is of prime importance because of the likelihood of pest infestation in cargo spaces as well as the possible presence of hitch-hiking plant pests. During Fiscal Year 1964 the number of planes inspected increased 10 percent over the previous year to a total of 160,306. Inspection of surface carriers increased during the same period as follows: Ships -- 7.6 percent to 64,129; vehicles crossing the Mexican Border -- 6.9 percent to 27,764,088; railway cars entering from Mexico -- 5.5 percent to 69,807.

Cargo Inspection: The growing volume of agricultural products imported from foreign sources reached a new peak during Fiscal Year 1964. Entries of agricultural material under permit increased 8.8 percent and involved some 82,000 shipments. Shipments by air continued to expand rapidly, resulting in an all-time high of 936,000 pieces of air cargo of plant quarantine interest inspected during the period. Four and one-half million pieces of cargo and/or mail packages were cleaned or treated, one-half million pieces more than in the previous year. Miscellaneous inspection of general cargo required 67,000 hours of inspection service, a 31 percent increase over Fiscal Year 1963.

Export Certification: American agricultural exports exceeded \$6 billion in Fiscal Year 1964, a record never before attained by any nation. This record was directly responsible for a marked increase in the number of export certificates issued by the Division. During the year nearly 49,000 shipments of various agricultural commodities, representing a 10.5 percent increase over Fiscal Year 1963, required plant quarantine clearance to meet the import requirements of destination countries. Exports of American grain and grain products from Great Lakes, Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf Coast ports contributed substantially to the inspection and certification workload.

Interceptions of Quarantine Material and Plant Pests were also at a record level during Fiscal Year 1964. Interceptions of agricultural material of quarantine interest totaled 401,392, the majority of which represented prohibited or restricted plants and plant products found in passenger baggage. Equally significant was a 12 percent increase in the number of plant pest interceptions -- 35,276 for Fiscal Year 1964 compared to 31,439 for the preceeding year. Included among these were many crop pests capable of inflicting great losses to major segments of American agriculture should they become established here. The following table illustrates interceptions of some of the more significant pests and the number of times they were intercepted:

MAJOR PEST INTERCEPTIONS

PEST	NUMBER OF INTERCEPTIONS	
	<u>Fiscal Year 1964</u>	<u>Average Per Year 1961-63</u>
Mediterranean fruit fly	223	191
Mexican fruit fly	335	211
Oriental fruit fly	43	37
Olive fruit fly	84	61
European cherry fruit fly	34	95
Mediterranean land snail	57	68
Khapra beetle	368	225
Japanese citrus scale	424	407
Black spot of citrus	561	425
Citrus canker	239	258
Sweet orange scab	355	195
Golden nematode	71	48

The inspection of miscellaneous non-agricultural cargo at maritime ports is assuming even greater importance, with serious agricultural pests, such as the Khapra beetle, snails, and certain soil-borne organisms being found more frequently on these cargoes and in ships' holds. Khapra beetle problems, in particular, have become more critical as additional commodities and an increasing number of ships have been found contaminated.

KHAPRA BEETLE -- COMPARATIVE FIVE-YEAR SUMMARY OF INTERCEPTIONS AND FUMIGATIONS

Fiscal Year	Interceptions	Fumigations		
		Ships	Shipments	Packages (Boxes, bales, cartons)
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
1960	131	17	118	73,513
1961	202	37	75	102,010
1962	249	38	72	85,743
1963	225	34	98	112,553
1964	368	63	394	210,608

Inspection workload continues to increase at offshore inspection points in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, American Virgin Islands, Nassau and Bermuda. In Hawaii, where the Division maintains its second largest port staff, a rapid expansion of tourist travel has resulted from lower transportation fares and encouragement of off-season tourism. During the past five years the number of passengers given predeparture plant quarantine inspection in Hawaii has steadily increased from 638,335 in Fiscal Year 1960 to 837,217 in Fiscal Year 1964.

New attempts to reach travelers with information on quarantine restrictions have been made in order to better protect U. S. food and fiber crops, forests and ornamental plantings. Three one-minute, public service TV announcements were released to 200 stations during the summer and fall travel seasons. Many were used during prime evening viewing hours by stations in metropolitan areas, and conservative estimates indicate that at least 50 million persons viewed each announcement. Earlier efforts to reach military personnel returning to the U. S. were substantially strengthened by production of a color movie on agricultural quarantines as they apply to military movements.

A new approach to informing U. S. travelers is the inclusion of a notice on agricultural quarantines in all United States passports to be issued after January 1, 1964. This will further strengthen the information program initiated several years ago. Printed notices previously available will continue to be used through the cooperation of travel agents, airlines, steamship companies and hotels as well as the Department of State and other Federal agencies.

TABLE 1.--AIRPLANE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1964

Origin	Airplanes				
	Number Inspected	Number With Prohibited Material	Number of Passengers Processed	Pieces of Baggage	Pieces of Cargo
Foreign.....	129,420	53,865	4,401,728	12,149,510	402,591
Domestic 1/.....	637	45	5,242	10,064	0
Predeparture 2/.....	24,312	7,276	1,393,033	3,790,209	534,149
Other.....	5,937	780	51,077	159,531	17
Total	160,306	61,966	5,851,080	16,109,314	936,757
Australia and New Zealand 3/.....	726	192	50,629	147,987	39

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

2/ Planes inspected in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Bahama Islands, and Bermuda 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 1964

Origin	Ships			
	Number Inspected	Number With Prohibited Material	Number of Passengers Processed	Pieces of Baggage Inspected
Foreign.....	62,364	27,910	1,221,616	3,733,714
Domestic <u>1</u> /.....	1,765	426	63,756	239,349
Total.....	64,129	28,336	1,285,372	3,973,063

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

TABLE 3.--MEXICAN BORDER INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1964

Number of Vehicles Entering	Number of Coaches and Pullmans	Number of Braceros <u>1</u> /	Pieces of Baggage	Freight Cars, Number of	
				Inspected	Fumigated Cleaned
27,764,088	1,526	182,632	12,049,426	68,281	260 1,755

1/ Mexican agricultural laborers entering United States for seasonal work under contract.

TABLE 4.--FOREIGN MAIL INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1964

Packages Inspected	Number of Plant Quarantine Interest 1/	Packages Released Under Permit	Packages Refused Entry
44,441,637	229,485	14,857	1,658

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

TABLE 5.--TRANSIT INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1964 1/

Number of Shipments Inspected	Number of Federal Violations Reported	Number of Shipments Reported to States
343,634	350	477

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

TABLE 6.--CARGO INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1964

Number of Entries Under Permit	Number of Man Hours Miscellaneous Inspection	Number of Packages Treated or Cleaned 2/	Export Certification Inspection	
			Number of Export Certificates Issued	Number of Containers Shipped
81,734	67,800 3/4	4,528,288	48,724	57,056,517

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.--NUMBER OF QUARANTINE MATERIAL INTERCEPTIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1964 1/

In Baggage	In Cargo	In Mail	In Quarters	In Stores	Total
205,364	3,136	2,400	30,778	159,714	401,392

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

TABLE 8.--NUMBER OF PLANT PEST INTERCEPTIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1964

Kind	Consumption 1/	Non Entry 2/	Propagation 3/	Miscellaneous 4/	Local 5/	Total
Insects.....	12,452	6,845	4,796	652	2,713	27,458
Diseases 6/.....	2,530	4,203	1,149	108	349	8,339
Other.....	942	582	874	143	123	2,664
Total.....	15,924	11,630	6,819	903	3,185	38,461

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 1964

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Item	Certified		Uncertified		Entered From British Virgin Islands into Virgin Islands of the U. S.
	Inspection Basis	Treatment Basis	Passed	Refused	
Shipments.....Number	3,792	2,262	5,493	5	775
Containers.....Number	1,140,041	438,754	1,106,213	1,228	4,474
Pounds 1/.....Number	14,479,151	0	4,062,687	0	265,954

DOMESTIC MAIL PACKAGES AND OTHER INSPECTION

Total Number Handled	Domestic Mail Packages			Number of Pieces of Hold Baggage	Number of Automobiles	Number of Shipment of Cut Flowers and Leis	Number of Express Packages
	Number Opened	Number Certified	Number Refused				
1,494,420	256,451	282	371	24,897	6,329	711,611	2,897

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

TABLE 10.--INSPECTION OF PLANT MATERIALS IN EUROPE, FISCAL YEAR 1964 1/

Name of Country	Number of Bulb Shipments	Number of Bulbs	Pounds of Grapes	Pounds of Witloof or Chicory
Belgium.....	343	11,634,938	8,274	1,913,653
France.....	39	1,178,348	0	0
Germany.....	15	684,000	0	0
Italy.....	13	2,216,955	0	0
Netherlands.....	3,511	341,589,745	0	0
Total.....	3,921	357,303,986	8,274	1,913,653

1/ Preshipment inspection and clearance of plant material in countries of origin performed under cooperative agreements.

TABLE 11.--ACTIVITIES PERFORMED AT SPECIAL INSPECTION STATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1964

DEPARTMENTAL PROPAGATIVE MATERIAL IMPORTATIONS ^{1/}

Item	Entered	Postentry Quarantine ^{2/}	Treated	Refused Entry
Shipments.....Number...	686	139	392	0
Plant Units.....Number...	14,960	2,891	5,972	0
Seeds.....Pounds...	10,520	36	9,936	0

OTHER PROPAGATIVE MATERIAL IMPORTATIONS

Shipments.....Number...	6,392	577	4,621	346
Plant Units.....Number...	3,475,509	712,965	2,927,263	13,363
Seeds.....Pounds...	81,127	2	78,042	70

DEPARTMENTAL NON-PROPAGATIVE MATERIAL

Number of Lots Treated..... 1,243

^{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.

TABLE 11.--ACTIVITIES PERFORMED AT SPECIAL INSPECTION STATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1964--Continued.

DEPARTMENTALLY GROWN MATERIAL

Item	Shipments	
	Domestic	Foreign
Inspected.....Number...	2,787	571
Units.....Number...	135,170	10,141
Seeds.....Pounds...	5,063	836
Treated.....Number...	677	145

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REGULATIONS

Item	Shipments	
	Entering D. C.	Leaving D. C.
Inspected.....Number...	1,715	472
Treated.....Number...	1	58
D. C. Violation.....Number...	0	0

TABLE 12.--POUNDS OF FRUIT TREATED IN MEXICO, FISCAL YEAR 1964 ^{1/}

Mangos	Oranges	Tangerines	Grapefruit
679,878	1,422,247	190,777	13,321

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

TABLE 13.---COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (1959 - 1964)

Item (Number of)	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Airplanes:						
Inspected.....	133,723	139,415	130,497	137,293	145,601	160,306
With Prohibited Material.....	46,868	47,741	46,782	50,819	55,894	61,966
Passengers.....	3,764,816	4,277,463	4,440,718	4,619,836	5,157,167	5,851,080
Baggage Inspected.....	9,733,480	10,776,357	11,588,758	12,295,810	13,785,989	16,109,314
Cargo Inspected.....	932,091	831,146	658,661	848,082	799,667	936,757
Hawaii to Aust. and N. Z.....	550	453	617	668	669	726
Ships:						
Inspected.....	58,995	60,394	57,049	59,952	59,556	64,129
With Prohibited Material.....	22,169	22,386	23,832	24,688	25,553	28,336
Passengers Processed.....	1,105,225	1,092,416	1,074,968	1,087,876	1,153,641	1,285,372
Baggage Inspected.....	3,486,640	3,988,338	3,613,279	3,351,644	3,535,689	3,973,063
Mexican Border Traffic Insp:						
Vehicles Entering.....	21,119,747	22,656,765	24,249,712	24,752,505	25,962,219	27,764,088
Coaches and Pullmans Entering	947	1,238	1,323	1,550	1,842	1,526
Baggage Inspected 2/.....	8,111,060	7,260,498	7,435,053	7,866,379	10,611,874	12,049,426
Freight Cars Entering 1/.....	70,479	66,510	62,845	62,271	64,329	68,281
Freight Cars Fumigated.....	20	3	1	3	4	260
Mail Inspection:						
Packages.....	37,391,885	37,903,668	37,787,959	39,901,732	43,910,990	44,441,637
Packages Released Under Permit	16,011	16,097	17,235	14,520	15,293	14,857
Packages Refused Under Entry.	1,464	1,274	1,092	1,145	1,288	1,658

TABLE 13.--COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (1959 - 1964)--Continued

Item	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Transit Inspection:						
Shipments Inspected.....	729,174	719,077	600,740	448,234	417,640	343,634
Federal Violations Reported.....	327	204	307	252	775	350
Shipments Reported States.....	396	638	236	136	164	477
Cargo Inspection:						
Entries of Material under Permit..	79,731	82,815	74,212	76,656	75,064	81,734
Man Hours Misc. Inspection.....	37,209	44,630	51,298	47,545	51,583	67,800
Packages Cleaned and Treated.....	1,614,016	1,831,688	2,606,957	2,742,021	3,988,784	4,528,288
Export Certificates Issued.....	36,372	34,715	36,226	38,954	44,063	48,724
Quarantine Material Interceptions..	319,713	314,367	323,603	384,656	394,915	401,392
Plant Pest Interceptions 2/.....	25,296	30,230	25,575	33,033	31,439	35,276
Shipments Ctfd. for Entry on the... Mainland.....	4,045	4,093	3,450	2,494	2,539	3,792
Shipments Ctfd. for Entry on the... Mainland after Treatment.....	1,354	1,110	954	1,216	1,961	2,262
Animal Quarantine Activities:						
Interceptions.....	-	-	43,910	74,991	71,962	85,976
Pounds.....	-	-	497,961	2,779,096	2,747,302	3,459,999

1/ Does not include oil tank cars.

2/ Does not include local pest interceptions.

3/ Adjusted to reflect estimated pieces of Baggage. Actual count totalling approximately 31 million pieces includes miscellaneous packages offered for entry and packages of admissible food items.

PLANT QUARANTINE WORKLOAD

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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