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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FISCAL YEAR 1965 PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION

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US - Agricultural Research Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Prepared by

Plant Quarantine Division
Agricultural Research Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1965

PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION

Injurious insects, disease organisms, and other plant pests cause substantial losses to our Nation's agricultural economy each year--losses borne by all the people of the United States: Farmers, industrial workers, businessmen, and consumers, alike. Many of the losses resulting from direct damage to crops, as well as indirect costs for control and eradication measures, are traceable to alien pests--some of them brought into this country by the first settlers. If allowed unrestricted entry, new invasions of plant enemies from foreign countries and off-shore islands could result in additional costs through lost and damaged crops, reduced production of our farms and forests, and increased outlays for pesticides and pest control.

The First Line of Defense: The plant quarantine system is America's first line of defense against foreign plant pests. To safeguard the Nation's food and fiber resources, about 600 highly trained Plant Quarantine Inspectors are assigned to major U.S. airports, seaports, and border crossings to halt the introduction of destructive plant pests. The task is a complex and difficult one, due to the many kinds and vast numbers of these pests, their small size, and their habit of "hitching" rides on a score of innocent agricultural and nonagricultural articles offered for entry or carried in travelers' baggage.

Nearly 8 million more people entered the United States during fiscal year 1965 than during fiscal year 1964. An increasing number of arrivals--24 hours a day, 7 days a week--were at inland ports for ocean-going vessels or interior airfields. Such entries increase the hazard of quick spread of pests within the country. Augmented movements of military personnel and equipment, coupled with certain relaxations in immigration requirements, foretell of a need for redoubled efforts to cope with the growing dimensions of the foreign pest problem. Indicative of the scope of the problem is the large number of plant pests and prohibited plant materials intercepted. During fiscal year 1965, 478,000 interceptions were taken at ports of entry--^{21.3}14.5 percent over the average of the preceding 5-year period. More than one-half of these interceptions were found in the 36.6 million pieces of baggage carried into the United States.

The total inspection workload increased 20.9 percent during the reporting period. A direct relationship exists between the various workload factors and the risk of plant pest introduction. Carriers and cargoes, both agricultural and nonagricultural, are subject to infestation or

contamination by pest organisms. The same is true of plant materials carried by or in the baggage of persons entering the country. Thus, the record total of 186 million travelers entering the United States represents not only more people and baggage to be inspected but an associated increased pest risk. Some of the other more significant increases may be summarized as follows:

Carriers Inspected:

The total number of carriers inspected at land, sea, and air ports of entry was up 8 percent over fiscal year 1964. Leading in the increase were aircraft, with 179,018 arrivals, or 11.7 percent more than in the previous year. Vehicles inspected on the Mexican border rose from 27,764,088 in 1964 to 29,857,226 in 1965, an increase of 7.5 percent; while the number of railway cars inspected, 69,807 and 75,790 respectively, represents a gain of 8.6 percent. Among the carriers, only the number of ship arrivals declined from 64,129 to 61,313, or 4.4 percent; but the total for 1965 exceeded that of any year prior to 1964. A prolonged maritime strike on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts is believed to have been the principal cause for this drop.

Volume of Cargo Inspections:

The number of entries of agricultural materials under permit rose by 4 percent, from 81,734, to 85,110. Of even greater significance, however, was the 17.9 percent increase in man-hours devoted to miscellaneous inspection and the 13 percent increase in the number of packages treated or cleaned. Air cargo requiring plant quarantine inspection totaled 979,909 pieces, or 4.6 percent more than during 1964. The risk of pest introduction associated with materials entered under permit is less than in the case of the nonagricultural and general cargo items represented by the figures for miscellaneous inspections, packages treated or cleaned, and air cargo. This is due to the control afforded by the permit system, that tends to eliminate or minimize risk at source and to impose restrictions and safeguards as conditions of entry.

Major Pest Interceptions:

The following table reflects gains in the numbers of interceptions of some of the more important plant pests and indicates the continued effectiveness of the pest interception effort:

MAJOR PEST INTERCEPTIONS

Pest	Number of Interceptions	
	F. Y. 1965	Average per year 1962-1964
Fruit flies:		
Mediterranean	196	227
Mexican	223	272
Oriental	84	39
Olive	36	69
European cherry	104	83
Citrus canker	245	329
Golden nematode	101	62
Khapra beetle	462	281
Sweet orange	299	259
Japanese citrus scale	617	402
Black spot of citrus	571	527

Special Problems with Contaminated Ships and Cargoes:

The increase in miscellaneous inspection of nonagricultural cargoes has been cited. Closely allied to this activity is the problem of contamination of ships' holds and cargoes that have been carried in them. Snails and such soil-borne organisms as nematodes are involved to some extent; but a stored product pest, the khapra beetle, is the one largely responsible for inspection and treatment problems. Many man-hours are devoted to the inspection of ships' holds for the early detection of khapra beetle. Failure to find the pest at first port of arrival often results in costly and time-consuming follow up action to track down and to inspect or treat cargo delivered from holds later found to be infested. The number of interceptions of khapra beetle and of ship fumigations resulting from its presence is illustrated in the following table:

KHAPRA BEETLE--COMPARATIVE 6-YEAR SUMMARY OF INTERCEPTIONS AND FUMIGATIONS

<u>FISCAL YEAR</u>	<u>INTERCEPTIONS</u>	<u>SHIP FUMIGATIONS</u>
	<u>number</u>	<u>number</u>
1960	131	17
1961	202	37
1962	249	38
1963	225	34
1964	368	63
1965	462	105

Predeparture Inspection Outside Continental United States. The predeparture inspections of aircraft and of the baggage of air travelers continue to expand in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Nassau, and Bermuda. The number of aircraft given predeparture clearance for flight to the mainland increased from 24,312 in 1964 to 28,384 in 1965, a gain of 16.7 per cent. At the same time the number of passengers and pieces of baggage involved increased from 1,393,033 to 1,630,718, and 3,790,209 to 4,314,129, or 17 and 13.8 per cent, respectively.

The Second Line of Defense: Cooperation by other officials and by the public--individuals and groups--is so essential to an effective plant quarantine program that it is considered the second line of defense. Continuing efforts are being made to expand this participation, which has proved so helpful "to multiply the hands" of the Plant Quarantine Inspectors.

Besides the sister-border clearance agencies, i. e., U. S. Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Public Health Service, who work together with the Agricultural Research Service inspectors on a more or less formal arrangement, many agencies cooperate informally, and notify inspectors of any clue to a pest-risk situation that they encounter. Help is given by such agencies as the Armed Forces, the U. S. Postal Service, the U. S. Travel Service, the Food and Drug Administration, and other agencies of the Department of Agriculture. State and local quarantine officers also give valuable cooperation.

The traveling public is increasingly helpful as it gains understanding of the serious consequences that can come through introducing pests in baggage. Here is where the main effort to strengthen this second line of defense was expended during the year.

The American flag airlines met with the Department in July 1965, and a committee consisting of industry and government representatives was formed to expedite plans to provide notice of agricultural quarantines to airline travelers. Methods proposed include use of a standardized notice of quarantine restrictions in all airline materials given to travelers; training materials for airline personnel so that they can better advise travelers about agricultural quarantine restrictions; use of movies and exhibits in airports and of movies aboard airplanes; and expansion of efforts to obtain cooperation of travel agents to inform travelers at the time airline tickets are purchased.

Some airlines now include agricultural quarantine notices in publications and time tables, and use training materials to acquaint airline personnel with quarantine restrictions. After the July 1965 meeting, one company and the Division prepared a specialized flyer on agricultural quarantines applying to Hawaii. This flyer is now included in all ticket folders for travel to and from the Islands. Another company asked for agricultural quarantine flyers already available for use in the West Indies.

A similar meeting was held December 15, 1965, with the Passenger Traffic Committee of the American Merchant Marine Institute, representing the American flag steamship lines, to explore additional ways of providing information to travelers utilizing this means of transportation.

During the year flyers on agricultural quarantine restrictions were provided to 1,720 travel agents in the United States for their use when booking foreign travel.

The Department, in cooperation with other border clearance agencies and the U. S. Travel Service, produced a 10-minute motion picture showing entry procedures. This movie includes notice of agricultural quarantines. Plans are being made to translate this movie into eight foreign languages for showing in U. S. Travel Service offices throughout the world.

A new flyer concerning plant quarantine restrictions that apply to persons returning from travel to Mexico is being distributed by hotels, motels, insurance offices, and travel agents. Also, three major gasoline companies are supplying this flyer in trip kits prepared for persons traveling to Mexico.

Publications issued overseas to persons applying for visas for travel to the United States and to persons in the United States obtaining passports for travel abroad were continued. A notice of agricultural quarantine restrictions is printed in all U. S. passports issued since January 1, 1965. During 1965 a publication displaying available photos of Division operations and selected foreign plant pests was sent to 1,500 U. S. newspapers. As a result, copies of photos have been used in more than 100 newspaper and magazine articles. One-minute television spot announcements were continued and three new announcements were sent to 200 television stations, reaching an estimated 75 million viewers. Two longer television programs on agricultural quarantines were prepared for use by farm program directors. One was filmed and distributed to 200 stations; the second placed on video tape and supplied to stations requesting farm material.

Efforts to inform military travelers of agricultural quarantines were greatly expanded by placing a 17-minute film, "Don't Bring Your Enemy Home," in 200 Air Force libraries in the United States and overseas. These prints are in addition to copies used by Plant Quarantine Division personnel to brief mass military movements, cargo handlers, and other cooperating military personnel.

TABLE 1.--AIRPLANE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1965.

Origin	Airplanes				
	Number inspected	Number with prohibited material	Number of passengers processed	Pieces of baggage	Pieces of cargo
Foreign.....	143,787	60,011	5,108,146	14,238,577	426,282
Domestic <u>1</u> /.....	660	7	4,667	8,134	0
Predeparture <u>2</u> /....	28,384	8,333	1,630,718	4,314,129	553,604
Other.....	6,187	518	49,851	151,130	23
Total.....	179,018	68,869	6,793,382	18,711,970	979,909
Australia and New Zealand <u>3</u> /...	786	211	56,720	164,691	21

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 1965.

Origin	Ships			
	Number inspected	Number with prohibited material	Number of passengers processed	Pieces of baggage inspected
Foreign.....	59,523	25,916	1,210,216	3,582,447
Domestic L/.....	1,790	312	73,202	273,458
Total.....	61,313	26,228	1,283,418	3,855,905

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

TABLE 3.--MEXICAN BORDER INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1965

Number of vehicles entering	Number of coaches and pullmans	Number of braceros L/	Pieces of baggage	Freight cars, number of	
				Inspected	Funigated
29,857,226	1,274	105,161	14,033,977	74,516	1
					1,575

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

TABLE 4.--FOREIGN MAIL INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1965.

Packages inspected	Number of plant quarantine interest ^{1/}	Packages released under permit	Packages refused entry
47,739,540	290,579	14,450	1,742
^{1/} Restricted articles, such as plants, plant products, plant pests, and soils.			

TABLE 5.--TRANSIT INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1965. ^{1/}

Number of shipments inspected	Number of Federal violations reported	Number of shipments reported to States
335,540	192	247
^{1/} The interstate movement of plants, plant products, and other regulated articles.		

TABLE 6.--CARGO INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1965.

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
85,110	79,929	5,120,906	44,462	35,141,814
^{1/} Inspection of nonregulated 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 1965. ^{1/}

	Number				Total
	In baggage	In cargo	In mail	In quarters	In stores
233,572		3,250	2,451	29,347	177,627
446,247					

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

TABLE 8.--NUMBER OF PLANT PEST INTERCEPTIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1965.

Kind	Number					Total
	Consumption ^{1/}	Nonentry ^{2/}	Propagation ^{3/}	Miscellaneous ^{4/}	Local ^{5/}	
Insects.....	11,124	6,913	4,602	975	1,719	25,333
Diseases ^{6/}	2,556	3,427	950	75	423	7,431
Other.....	932	418	522	78	93	2,043
Total.....	14,612	10,758	6,074	1,128	2,235	34,807

^{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 1965.

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...	3,347	2,484	5,240	11	462
Containers.....Number...	1,848,321	472,037	1,104,653	2,321	1,819
Pounds 1/.....Number...	0	0	4,281,101	0	102,929

DOMESTIC MAIL PACKAGES AND OTHER INSPECTION

Total number handled	Domestic Mail Packages			Number of pieces of hold baggage	Number of shipment of cut flowers and leis	Number of express packages
	Number opened	Number certified	Number refused			
1,665,459	207,657	294	493	28,722	2,164	698,970
						1,062

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 1965.^{1/}

Name of country	Number of bulb shipments	Number of bulbs	Pounds of grapes	Pounds of witloof or chicory
Belgium.....	339	11,604,811	1,275	1,661,585
France.....	43	849,863	0	0
Germany.....	21	1,085,000	0	0
Italy.....	15	2,377,355	0	0
Netherlands.....	3,577	393,127,417	0	0
Total	3,955	409,044,446	1,275	1,661,585

^{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 1965.

DEPARTMENTAL PROPAGATIVE MATERIAL IMPORTATIONS. ^{1/}

Item	Entered	Postentry quarantine ^{2/}	Treated	Refused entry
Shipments.....Number....	738	114	529	1
Plant units.....Number....	26,021	3,378	6,412	27
Seeds.....Pounds....	15,294	56	14,386	0

OTHER PROPAGATIVE MATERIAL IMPORTATIONS

Shipments.....Number....	5,624	528	4,120	268
Plant units.....Number....	2,631,621	566,365	2,022,724	19,462
Seeds.....Pounds....	128,896	218	122,218	175

DEPARTMENTAL NONPROPAGATIVE MATERIAL

Number of lots treated.....490

- ^{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 1965--Continued.

DEPARTMENTALLY GROWN MATERIAL

Item	Shipments	
	Domestic	Foreign
Inspected.....Number...	2,988	512
Units.....Number...	64,982	3,405
Seeds.....Pounds...	7,262	863
Treated.....Number...	1,179	247

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REGULATIONS

Item	Shipments	
	Entering D.C.	Leaving D.C.
Inspected.....Number...	780	128
Treated.....Number...	0	59
D.C. violation.....Number...	0	0

TABLE 12.--POUNDS OF FRUIT TREATED IN MEXICO, FISCAL YEAR 1965.^{1/}

Pounds			
Mangos	Oranges	Tangerines	Grapefruit
828,949	38,066,560	17,812,720	206,640

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

TABLE 13.--COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (1960 - 1965).

Item (Number of)	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Airplanes:						
Inspected.....	139,415	130,497	137,293	145,601	160,306	179,018
With prohibited material.....	47,741	46,782	50,819	55,894	61,966	68,869
Passengers.....	4,277,463	4,440,718	4,619,836	5,157,167	5,851,080	6,793,382
Baggage inspected.....	10,776,357	11,588,758	12,295,810	13,785,989	16,109,314	18,711,970
Cargo inspected.....	831,146	658,661	848,082	799,667	936,757	979,909
Hawaii to Aust. and N.Z.....	453	617	668	669	726	786
Ships:						
Inspected.....	60,394	57,049	59,952	59,556	64,129	61,313
With prohibited material.....	22,386	23,832	24,688	25,553	28,336	26,228
Passengers processed.....	1,092,416	1,074,968	1,087,876	1,153,641	1,285,372	1,283,418
Baggage inspected.....	3,988,338	3,613,279	3,351,644	3,535,689	3,973,063	3,855,905
Mexican Border Traffic Inspection:						
Vehicles entering.....	22,656,765	24,249,712	24,752,505	25,962,219	27,764,088	29,857,226
Coaches and pullmans entering....	1,238	1,323	1,550	1,842	1,526	1,274
Baggage inspected.....	7,260,498	7,435,053	7,866,379	10,611,874	12,049,426	14,033,977
Freight cars entering 1/.....	66,510	62,845	62,271	64,329	68,281	74,516
Freight cars fumigated.....	3	1	3	4	260	1
Mail Inspection:						
Packages.....	37,903,668	37,787,959	39,901,732	43,910,990	44,441,637	47,739,540
Packages released under permit..	16,097	17,235	14,520	15,293	14,857	14,450
Packages refused under entry....	1,274	1,092	1,145	1,288	1,658	1,742

TABLE 13.--COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (1960 - 1965)--Continued.

Item	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Transit Inspection:						
Shipments inspected.....	719,077	600,740	448,234	417,640	343,634	335,540
Federal violations reported.....	204	307	252	775	350	192
Shipments reported States.....	638	236	136	164	477	247
Cargo Inspection:						
Entries of material under permit.	82,815	74,212	76,656	75,064	81,734	85,110
Man hours misc. inspection.....	44,630	51,298	47,545	51,583	67,800	79,929
Packages cleaned and treated.....	1,831,688	2,606,957	2,742,021	3,988,784	4,528,288	5,120,906
Export certificates issued.....	34,715	36,226	38,954	44,063	48,724	44,462
Quarantine material interceptions.	314,367	323,603	384,656	394,915	401,392	446,247
Plant pest interceptions <u>2</u> /.....	30,230	25,575	33,033	31,439	35,276	32,572
Shipments certified for entry on.. the mainland.....	4,093	3,450	2,494	2,539	3,792	3,347
Shipments certified for entry on.. the mainland after treatment.....	1,110	954	1,216	1,961	2,262	2,484
Animal quarantine activities:						
Interceptions.....	0	43,910	74,991	71,962	85,976	100,248
Pounds.....	0	497,961	2,779,096	2,747,302	3,459,999	4,542,492

1/ Does not include oil tank cars.

2/ Does not include local pest interceptions