

High-Consequence Foreign Animal Diseases and Pests

In carrying out our safeguarding mission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) works to ensure the continued health and welfare of our Nation's livestock and poultry populations. One important aspect of this work is emergency preparedness—making sure we are ready to respond effectively when faced with a foreign animal disease outbreak or pest infestation. As part of these efforts, APHIS' animal health officials identify "high-consequence" foreign animal diseases and pests. These are serious diseases and pests that do not currently exist in the United States. If introduced here, they pose a severe threat to U.S. animal health and, in some cases, the economy and human health as well.

The list divides diseases and pests into tiers according to risk level, as described below.

Tier 1

Tier 1 diseases are those of national concern. They pose the most significant threat to animal agriculture in the United States, as they have the highest risks and consequences. This category includes:

- African swine fever*
- classical swine fever*
- foot-and-mouth disease*
- notifiable avian influenza (H5 and H7 strains that need to be reported to the World Organization for Animal Health, or OIE)*
- virulent Newcastle disease*

Tier 2

Tier 2 diseases are transmitted primarily by pests. How quickly these diseases spread and APHIS' ability to control or eradicate an outbreak depends largely on whether these pests are present in the environment and whether they can transmit the disease between

animals. This category includes:

- heartwater
- New World screwworm
- Rift Valley fever*
- Venezuelan equine encephalitis*

Tier 3

Tier 3 diseases and pests pose less risk and fewer consequences than those in Tiers 1 and 2, but still rise to the level of inclusion because of their potential negative impact on animal or human health. This category includes:

- African horse sickness
- contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
- glanders and melioidiosis
- henipaviruses (hendra and nipah)*
- rinderpest* and peste des petits ruminants*
- tropical bont tick

What the List Means

These high-consequence foreign animal diseases and pests are of primary importance to APHIS' emergency preparedness officials, guiding many of our program priorities. For example, the list will help inform decisions on how we procure countermeasures to address a disease outbreak and, potentially, funding for research and response activities. The diseases marked with an asterisk are those APHIS has identified as biological threats that need to be considered in program priorities and countermeasure stockpile requirements.

How We Developed the List

APHIS developed this list after carefully considering all foreign animal diseases and pests that could negatively affect livestock or poultry. We also took into account disease agents that are identified in the agricultural select agent program, as well as those that can severely threaten public health and animal health (zoonotic diseases) or the safety of animal products. We did not include diseases and pests that are endemic, or common, in the United States or any disease APHIS already manages through one of our animal health

programs (e.g., brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis, scrapie, etc.).

When developing the list, another overall issue we considered was a disease's potential for introduction into the United States. The eight criteria below also helped guide our decisions on whether or not to designate an animal disease or pest as one of high, negative consequence.

- 1) high epidemic potential, or the ability to rapidly spread and infect a large number of animals
- 2) high economic impact
- 3) large impact on trade, both domestic and international
- 4) high animal morbidity and mortality, or the capability to cause disease and death respectively
- 5) high potential to infect multiple species
- 6) inability to detect the disease rapidly
- 7) ability to vaccinate for the disease
- 8) high zoonotic (can be transmitted from animals to people) potential

APHIS animal health officials will review and update this list periodically. In doing so, we will seek broad input from stakeholders to inform our decisions.

Learn More

If you have any questions about the list of high-consequence animal diseases and pests, please call APHIS' National Center for Animal Health Emergency Management at (301) 851-3595. To learn more about animal health emergency management, go to www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management.

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