



Modernizing the Safeguarding Continuum:  
How the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE)  
is being utilized by USDA APHIS  
to modernize the Agriculture Import Process.

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# WHAT IS ACE?



- ACE = Automated Commercial Environment (aka Single Window)  
It's Owned and Operated by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP)  
It's a digital interface between Trade (Importers and Filers), US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and Partnering Government Agencies (PGA's)  
Ultimately allows Trade to electronically file a customs entry
- PGA = Partnering Government Agency  
Generally all agencies with regulatory authority over products imported into the U.S.
- Message Set = Agency Specific Data Set  
Enhances or supplements the data required by CBP  
Collects data required by the specific agency  
Electronic Super-Form
- Foundation for ACE: Safe Port Act 2006 and Presidential Mandate 2014  
Required that all agencies regulating products imported into the US use the Single Window – ACE system
- Further reinforced by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) 2017  
Where all WTO countries agreed to support streamlining the Export-Import process via a single window concept like ACE.

# MODERNIZING THE SAFEGUARDING CONTINUUM AND THE AGRICULTURE IMPORT PROCESS



**Growers and Producers**



**Shippers, Importers,  
and Filers**

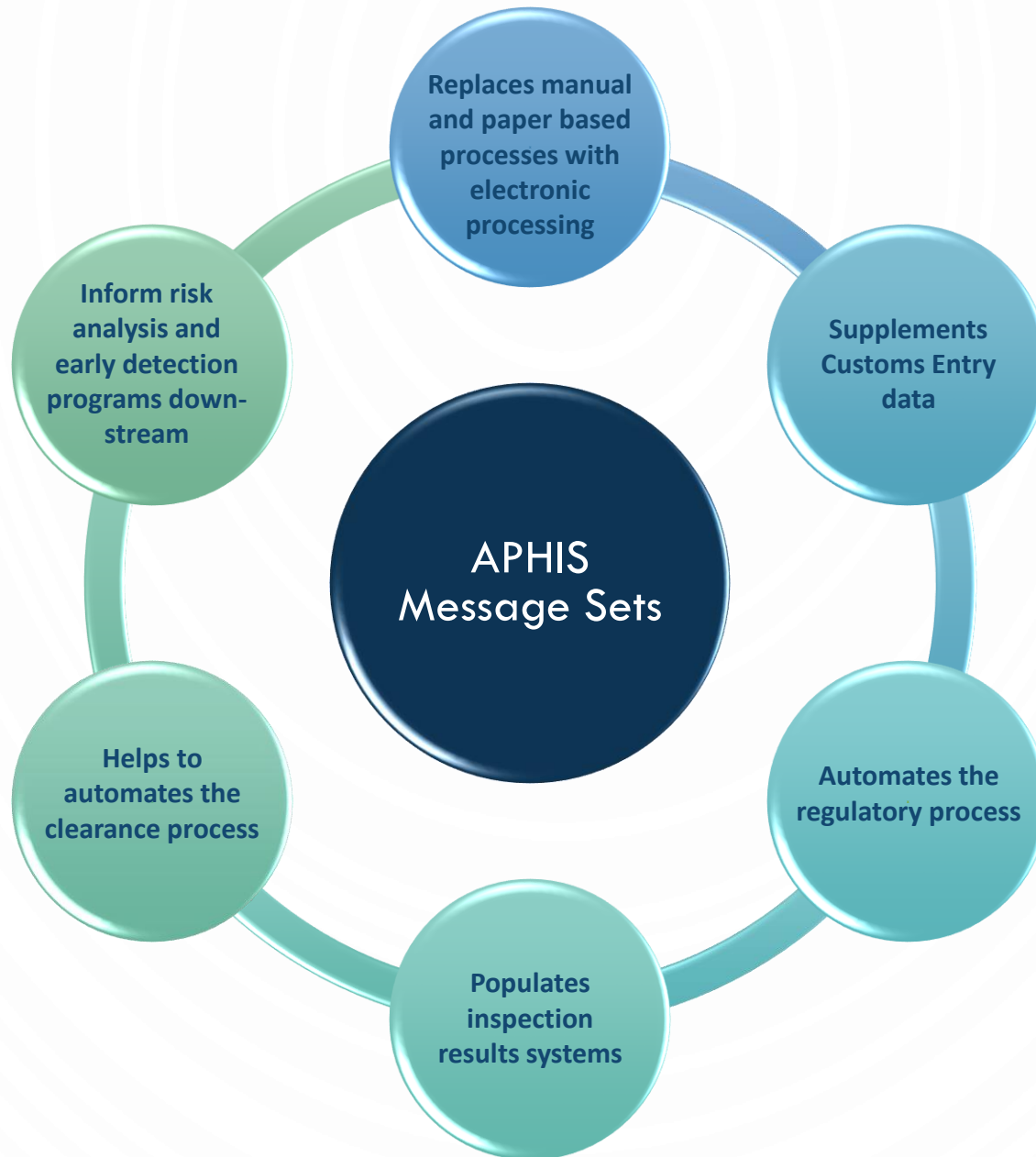


**Clearance and  
Inspection Process**



**Post Entry and Early  
Detection**

# OVERARCHING BENEFITS OF MODERNIZATION



# IMPACTED APHIS PROGRAMS AND COMMODITIES

Veterinary Services  
(AVS)

Category Type Codes

- AP0100  
(Live Animals)
- AP0200  
(Related Animal Products)
- AP0300  
(Animal Products and By-Products)

Plant Protection and  
Quarantine  
(APQ)

Category Type Codes

- AP0400  
(Propagative Material)
- AP0500  
(Seeds Not for Planting)
- AP0600  
(Fruits and Vegetables)
- AP0700  
(Misc. and Processed Products)
- AP0800  
(Cut Flowers)

Biotechnology  
Regulatory Services  
(ABS)

Category Type Codes

- AP1000  
(Genetically Engineered Organisms)

Animal Care  
(AAC)

Category Type Codes

- AP0100  
(Live Animals)
- Category Code  
118  
(Canidae (Dogs))

## WHAT WAS CONVERTED



- **Audited Over 30 APHIS Forms**
- **Identified approx. 1600** total potential data elements.
- **Recognized approx. 1400** converted but most were duplicative across forms (e.g. Entity Information)
- Now the “Super-Form” Contains an average of **60** data elements after duplicates removed (per program)
- Maximum of approximately 80 data elements depending on commodity, country and regulatory combinations

## WHAT TYPES OF NEW DATA IS CAPTURED ELECTRONICALLY?

### Enhanced Product Information

- Scientific Names
- Global product Identifiers
- Product Physical Condition
- Product Intended Use

### Enhanced Entity Information

- Company Identifiers
- Company Contact information

### Enhanced Tracking of Government Required Documents

- Validation of Commodity
- Track Permit and Certificate Usage
- Verifies Entities Involved

### In the Future

- Leverage Barcoding Systems for Inspection
- Automate Sampling Protocols
- Increase Integration with other systems along the continuum

# INTEGRATION OF PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE SYSTEMS

- Links the official document by its ID with number declared within the message set

- Validates the information on the permit and certificate with the Customs Entry and Message Set

- Official copy of documents are sent directly to officers

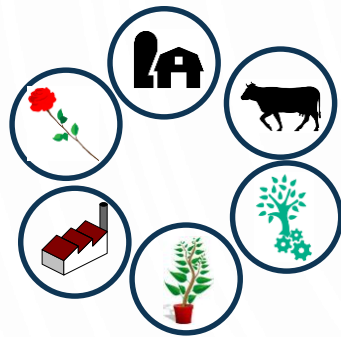


- Further helps reduce paper by ultimately eliminating the need for permits and certificates to accompany the shipment

- Reduces Fraud and Reporting errors while improving data quality



# ENLIGHTENING AND IMPROVING THE SAFEGUARDING CONTINUUM VIA ANALYTICS



## Growers and Producers

- Communicating Pest loads
- Improving treatment methods
- Informing Preclearance programs
- Adding expedite release and clean stock programs



## Importers, Shippers, Filers

- Improving Data Entry and Quality Control
- Increase Due Diligence and Reduce Legal Risk
- Build upon Agriculture Trusted Trader Programs



## Clearance and Inspection

- Automates Regulatory Oversight
- Automates Sampling and Inspection Protocols
- Fingers off Keyboards: Reallocate resources for inspections
- Improves our focus on Higher Risk Products

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST A PROJECT UPDATE

- ✓ Requirements Gathering
- ✓ Inventory Paper Documents (summer/fall 2014)
- ✓ Design and Development (2015)
- ✓ Testing and Pilots (2016)
- ✓ Deployment and Optional Usage by Trade (2017-2018)
- Goal for a Federal Registry Notice (FRN) announcing the mandatory usage of APHIS Message Set by the end of 2019



United States Department of Agriculture

