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United States Department of Agriculture

How Rightsizing Regs Can Optimize Plant Protection and Minimize Burdens

Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture



Safeguarding Agriculture

Preventing pests from entering and becoming established in the United States

- Cleared millions of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables and more than 1 billion plants before they enter the United States
- Issued 18,633 import permits, to keep harmful pests from traveling to the United States
- Eradicated the European grapevine moth, which threatened California's \$4 billion annual grape crop
- Eradicated numerous exotic fruit fly outbreaks in California, Florida, and Texas
- Kept 99.5 percent of U.S. commercial cotton free of boll weevil



Facilitating Safe Trade

Promoting the use of science-based standards

Resolving plant health barriers to trade and certifying the health of U.S. exports

- Opened new markets for U.S. exports totaling \$171.6 million
- Expanded market access for U.S. exports valued at \$122.3 million
- Retained market access for U.S. exports totaling \$22.7 billion
- And issued more than 738,000 export certificates



The Balance: Most Effective, Least Restrictive



- Regulatory streamlining (notice-based processes)
- Focusing regulations on true risk
- Non-regulatory solutions

Notice-Based Processes



- General requirements in U.S. Code of Federal Regulations; specific restrictions on our web site
- Allows for more timely response to ever-changing pest situations
- Science-based
- Transparent, includes public comment period

Focusing Regulations on True Risk



- Better use of resources
- Greater ability to prevent pest and disease spread
- Relieves unnecessary requirements and burdens

Non-Regulatory Solutions



- Seek voluntary partnerships with industry when possible to address pest and disease issues without regulation
- Leverage industry best practices
- Use non-regulatory solutions to address both domestic and international plant health issues



By taking the *most* effective and *least* restrictive approach, we can regulate at the speed of commerce and relieve industry burdens where possible without compromising our mission.



United States Department of Agriculture

Thank you!

