

Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Our vision:

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

USDA/APHIS-CFIA Project for Enhancing Zone Recognition

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USAHA/ AAVLD Annual meeting

Committee on Animal Emergency Management

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Issue

Canada and the USA engage in a high volume of trade in animals and animal products, both before and after NAFTA, resulting in an integration of the North American livestock industry.



In the event of a foreign animal disease incursion, this trade is disrupted until each country is satisfied that the disease has been contained and/or eradicated.

Issue

Establishing the ability for APHIS and the CFIA to recognize quickly each other's zoning decisions, including infrastructure, containment, and proof of freedom, would:

- minimize the disruption of trade from disease-free zones within the affected country and,
- minimize the economic impact on export markets.







Initiative

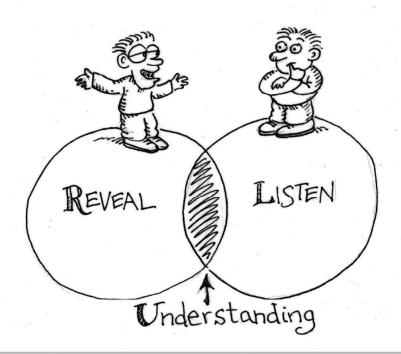
On August 21 and 22, 2007, the CFIA's Terrestrial Animal Health Division met with the APHIS' Regionalization Evaluation Services to exchange information on how zones are created and recognized within the USA and Canada.





Objective

To enhance mutual understanding of each country's processes for zoning and potentially enable the agencies to formally recognize each other's zoning decisions in the event of an FAD outbreak.



Current Situation

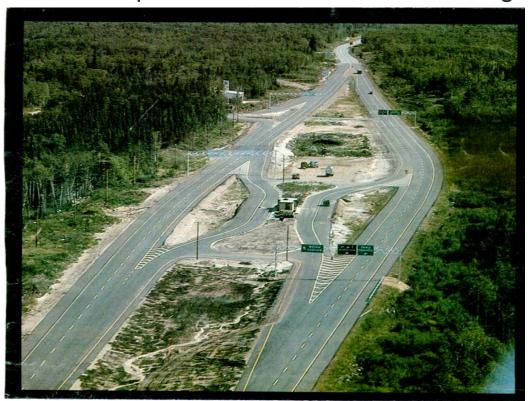
At this time in order for APHIS officials to recognize Canadian zones a US Rule Making process is required taking eighteen months to two years to complete.



APHIS indicated that what is envisaged is similar to an existing process already completed with the EU.

Pilot Project on Movement Monitoring

The West Hawk Lake movement monitoring station would be considered an important tool in the CFIA's zoning capacity.

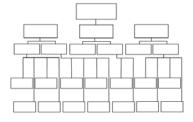


Veterinary Infrastructure Evaluation

In evaluating the equivalency of zoning processes, fundamental considerations are the veterinary infrastructure, including

- legal authority,
- organizational structure,
- human and material resources, and
- emergency preparedness measures.









The second part of the evaluation consists of reviewing the procedures for establishing a zone, including:

- the different phases for zoning and,
- how the integrity of the zone is maintained.



First, the suspect phase:

- what are the triggers,
- the field investigation, and
- zoning as a response.

Secondly, the investigation phase in which:

- sampling is done,
- an epi-investigation is started,
- susceptible species are examined, and
- a diagnosis is made.







The third phase is the activation phase:

- a decision is made to activate the Incident Management Team,
- official reporting is done and,
- movement controls are put in place.

The action phase has for its objective: to define the scope of the outbreak and, measures such as:

- biosecurity on the farms,
- vector/wildlife control,
- epi-investigation, surveillance, and
- disposal of contaminated material.









The zone is further defined by additional measures such as:

- surveillance in disease free zones,
- measures to encourage reporting such as compensation and
- measures to limit spread, such as decontamination, cleaning, disinfection and vaccination.

The final stage is reduction and lifting of the zone for which the proof of freedom is demonstrated.







Achieved To-Date

- 1. August 2007 APHIS CFIA meeting on zoning
- August 2008 to March 2009 prepared and exchanged documents on the veterinary infrastructure, surveillance, disease monitoring and national emergency response plans in the event of an FAD introduction (focus on highly contagious diseases such as foot and mouth disease)
- 2010-2011 Evaluation document of the other country's capacity to contain and eradicate FAD outbreaks by zoning

Related Initiative: Collaboration between the National Surveillance Unit (APHIS) and the Epidemiology and Surveillance Section (CFIA)

- Outbreak Surveillance Toolbox Workshop
 - 2 participants from the CFIA at Aug/11 workshop
 - Toolbox includes details on processes / decision-making on the establishment of zones – useful and relevant to the discussion on mutual recognition of zoning decisions
- Collaborative projects between countries
 - discussions continuing on developing projects of mutual interest
- Cross border exercise using toolbox
 - Anticipate US-Canada zoning and surveillance exercise using the Outbreak Surveillance Toolbox in 6 months time
 - Will help to build knowledge and understanding on zoning practices in both countries.

Next Steps

- 1. Review and critique of evaluation documents
- 2. Amend as needed and finalize
- 3. Submit final evaluation documents to CVOs

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