Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Agriculture Inspection

Protecting America’s Natural Resources from Foreign Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases
Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaison

Bruce Lewke
Senior Program Manager
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

October 29, 2009
Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaison

The mission of Agriculture Programs and Liaison is to maintain the risk of introduction of invasive species into the United States at acceptable levels to protect American agricultural products, and facilitate the movement of people and commodities across the borders. Inspecting travelers and cargo is the first line of defense for keeping the prohibited items out of the United States and helps to monitor for significant agricultural threats, encourage compliance with the regulations and educate the public and importers about agricultural regulations.
Primary Mission: Protect America from terrorists and instruments of terror while facilitating legitimate trade and travelers.

CBP also enforces the traditional mission of protecting American agriculture from harmful pests and diseases and protecting American consumers from unsafe imported food products.
Risk & Opportunity

On a typical day, CBP processes over:

• 1.1 million passengers
• 65,000 commercial conveyances
• 375,000 vehicles
CBP Agriculture Specialist Duties
Include

Inspection of commercial shipments
CBP Agricultural Duties

Verify precleared military shipments are free from contamination.
CBP Agricultural Duties
CBP Agricultural Duties
CBP Agricultural Duties
CBP Agriculture Inspection Accomplishments – FY2008

• Recorded more than 164,000 pest interceptions.
In Closing

• CBP carries out the agricultural mission at the ports of entry 24 hours a day.
• CBP works closely with other federal agencies to protect our agricultural resources from unintentional and *intentional* biological harm.
• CBP’s mission is to prevent terrorism - including terrorism directed at agriculture.