

# Agriculture Notice

We regret that it was necessary to take certain agricultural items from your baggage. Many agriculture products cannot be brought into the United States because they may carry animal and plant pests and diseases. Restricted items, from certain countries, include meats, fruits, vegetables, plants, soil, and products made from animal or plant materials.

Agricultural pests and diseases are a threat to U.S. food crops and livestock. Some of these organisms cause highly contagious animal diseases that could severely damage the livestock industry, which would increase costs for U.S. meat and dairy products. Other pests can affect crops, ornamental plants, trees, and even the property value of homes.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) protect American agriculture by preventing the introduction of foreign plants and animal pests and diseases at our nation's port of entry. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) determines which agricultural products can enter the country and which products pose a risk and should be kept out. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists at ports of entry enforce these agricultural policies.

## **What happens now?**

Confiscated or abandoned items are destroyed to prevent the spread of pests and diseases. Travelers who fail to declare restricted or prohibited agriculture items may be subject to civil and criminal sanctions.

For additional information, visit <http://www.cbp.gov> or write to:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Office of Field Operations  
Agriculture Programs and Liaison  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20229

For information about permits to bring plants and animal products into the U.S., and to read frequently asked questions, visit <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/index.shtml>



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection