



AUG 17 2005

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Washington, DC  
20250

Dr Vinets Veldre  
Chief Veterinary Officer  
General Director of Food and Veterinary Service  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Republikas Square 2  
Riga LV-1010

Dear Dr. Veldre:

I greatly appreciate the hospitality and cooperation you and your staff provided the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) site visit team on its recent trip to Latvia. We made significant progress in our evaluation of your country's status for classical swine fever (CSF), swine vesicular disease (SVD), and foot and mouth disease (FMD). As discussed during the visit, we are providing you with a written summary of issues identified as potential risk factors for introduction or reintroduction of CSF, SVD, and FMD into Latvia.

Our main concern involves CSF surveillance in wild boar, particularly in higher risk districts such as those bordering Belarus or Russia. The current sampling plan does not appear to be adequate to detect low-level incursions of CSF in the wild boar population with reasonable statistical confidence. The site visit team suggested that CSF surveillance in both domestic swine and wild boar could be strengthened by identifying higher risk areas and focusing resources there.

We are proceeding with a collective risk assessment for CSF, SVD, and FMD based on the information gathered to date. Additional risk issues may be identified during the evaluation process. Because the APHIS team was unable to evaluate the diagnostic laboratories, we will contact you soon to arrange for our laboratory personnel to visit. In addition, APHIS needs a copy of the Law on Veterinary Medicine (in English) and the estimated number of field and laboratory suspicions for CSF, SVD, and FMD reported from 2000-2005. Timely receipt of that information will expedite APHIS' evaluation.

Your primary contact for this project is Dr. Kelly Rhodes, USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import and Export, Regionalization Evaluation Services Staff, Unit 38, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737. Her telephone number is 301-734-4356; her e-mail address is [Kelly.Rhodes@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Kelly.Rhodes@aphis.usda.gov); and her fax number is 301-734-3222. Please contact Dr. Rhodes if you have any questions or concerns.



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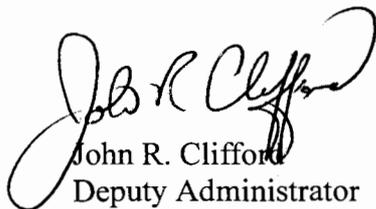
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(Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)  
1-800-877-8339

Dr. Veldre

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Similarly, Dr. Zanda Matuzale was identified during the closing meeting as the primary contact within the Latvian veterinary services for the exchange of technical information. Again, thank you for your hospitality and cooperation.

Sincerely,



John R. Clifford  
Deputy Administrator  
Veterinary Services

Dr. Veldre

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Similarly, Dr. Zanda Matuzale was identified during the closing meeting as the primary contact within the Latvian veterinary services for the exchange of technical information. Again, thank you for your hospitality and cooperation.

Sincerely,

**/s/John R. Clifford**

John R. Clifford  
Deputy Administrator  
Veterinary Services

cc:

B. Van Goethem, EC Commission  
J. Greifer, TST, Washington, DC

APHIS:VS:GColgrove:AGoodman:KRhodes:MDFowler:dsakyi:ext4929:ECMS:0507-AMJUDB:VS:NCIE:REG:dinelles:thank you and status letter to Latvia 08-05-05

*see 8/10/05*

*[Signature] 8/17/05*

*see 8/16/05, 8-15-05*

*see 8/12/05*