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DA-CO-USECL-AC20241022-00008

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR

No: 10
Series of 2024

SUBJECT: OPERATIONALIZATION OF INSPECTION SITES FOR LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND MEAT PRODUCTS IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR) AND ADJACENT PROVINCES FOR THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF), AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI), AND OTHER PRIORITY ANIMAL DISEASES

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture (DA) - Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) Administrative Circular (AC) No. 03, Series of 2016 (Reactivation/Establishment of Regional and LGU Veterinary Quarantine Checkpoints in Strategic Locations All Over the Country for Early Containment of Dangerous Communicable Animal Diseases) directed the establishment and operation of checkpoint facilities to control the spread of diseases;

WHEREAS, the resurgence of African Swine Fever (ASF) cases was recorded in Region IV-A, and new outbreaks in other previously free areas are continually reported with significant economic impacts on the local swine industry;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the DA AC No. 02, Series of 2022 (Amendment to DA AC No. 12, Series of 2019 regarding National Zoning and Movement Plan for the Prevention and Control of African Swine Fever), guidelines and requirements were formulated to guide the movement of swine, and swine products and by-products across different defined zones in the country;

WHEREAS, cases of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) are continually detected and remain a significant threat to the local poultry industry;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the DA Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 43, Series of 2022 (Updated Guidelines on the Movement of Live Poultry and Non-Poultry and Poultry Products and By-products during the Avian Influenza Outbreak), guidance and movement restrictions in poultry, and poultry-products and by-products were formulated across different regions to prevent the spread of Avian Influenza to the remaining disease-free areas in the country;

WHEREAS, the Republic Act No. 8485 otherwise known as "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998" as Amended by RA 10631 is promulgated in order to promote and safeguard the welfare and well-being of animals;

WHEREAS, BAI MC No. 30, Series of 2024, or the "List of Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) Priority Animal Diseases and Procedures on Animal Disease Reporting" was issued to improve animal disease reporting and outbreak investigation, and to strengthen the implementation of the prevention, control, and eradication programs of the emerging and re-emerging animal diseases;

WHEREAS, ASF, AI and other priority animal diseases have severe impact on the livestock and poultry industry with economic implications, thus it is crucial to implement stringent disease management protocols and strategies to control spread;

WHEREAS, the Republic Act No. 9296, or "The Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines", mandated the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) as the sole national controlling authority on all matters pertaining to meat and meat product inspection and meat hygiene;

WHEREAS, the DA, through BAI and NMIS, recognizes the authority of the Local Government Units (LGUs) to discharge the functions and responsibilities of national agencies and offices as necessary, appropriate or incidental to efficient and effective provision of basic services which include the

prevention and control of animal pests and diseases as provided in Section 17 (3) of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 following the guidelines set forth in DA Administrative Order (AO) No. 05, series of 2019, "Guidelines on the Local Transport/Shipment of Animals, Animal Products, and By-Products".

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region (NCR) serves as a major destination and hub for livestock and poultry commodities from South Luzon provinces to the North Luzon provinces and vice-versa;

WHEREAS, major interregional checkpoints are being maintained by the BAI National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division through the Veterinary Quarantine Stations as mandated under Section 26 (I) of Executive Order No. 338, s. 2001. However, inspection sites in the NCR are yet to be established and are assessed to be the missing link for effective border control in Luzon;

NOW THEREFORE, the BAI through the National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division is hereby authorized to establish and operationalize livestock, poultry, and meat inspection sites in the NCR and adjacent provinces in coordination with concerned national government agencies and LGUs subject to the issuance of guidelines on the implementation of the same.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

Done this 6th day of Nov -, 2024


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary

