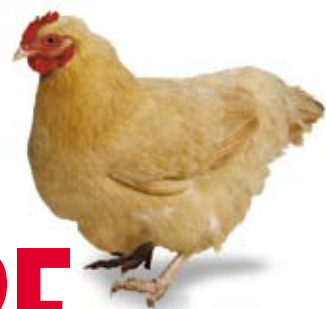


# BE AWARE AND DECLARE!



## PROTECTING our Plants and Animals at the Border

### What are the risks to Canada?

Food, plants, animals and related products from other countries can introduce diseases, pests, viruses and micro-organisms that threaten Canadian animals, plants and natural habitats.

For example, seemingly harmless products such as wood carvings or fruits may carry insects capable of causing significant damage to Canada's forests. Similarly, feathers, meats and other animal products could spread avian influenza ("bird flu") or other animal diseases. In addition to affecting Canadian agriculture, many animal diseases may harm human health and food safety.

Because of these risks, there are restrictions limiting the types of products that travellers can bring into Canada. All food, plants, animals and related products must be declared at Canadian points of entry.



### The Traveller's Role

#### Before Leaving Canada

- **Be informed** about what products you can bring back from the country you will be visiting.
- **Request an Import Permit** if you would like to bring restricted items back into Canada.

#### When Returning to Canada

- **Declare all food, plants, animals and related products.**
- **Avoid contact with farmed animals (including poultry), zoo animals or wildlife for five days** after you return if you were exposed to similar animals while you were abroad.
- **Do not visit Canadian farms for 14 days** if you visited a farm or had contact with wild birds while abroad. Be sure the footwear you wore to the farm or when you had contact with wild birds is disinfected and your clothing is washed thoroughly and dried at a high temperature. Complete the appropriate areas of your Customs Declaration Card regarding farm visits.

### Declaring is the Law

Travellers are required by law to declare all food, plants, animals and related products when entering Canada. Specially trained detector dogs and a variety of other tools are present at Canadian points of entry to detect specific products. Failure to declare could lead to:

- Confiscation of products
- Fines of up to \$400 per undeclared item
- Prosecution



### What products can you bring into Canada?

The worldwide situation is constantly changing. Before travelling, it is your responsibility to find out about the most current restrictions.

If you are unsure about an item, it is better to declare it or ask a Border Services Officer to be certain that what you are bringing into Canada is allowed. Some airports also have prohibited product bins available before you reach Canadian customs where you can throw away restricted items without penalty.

For a complete list of product restrictions and instructions on applying for import permits, visit [www.BeAware.gc.ca](http://www.BeAware.gc.ca) or call 1 800 0-Canada (1 800 622-6232) / TTY: 1 800 926-9105.

The following items commonly carried by travellers must be declared:

- ▶ meat and meat products
- ▶ cream, milk, cheese and other dairy products
- ▶ plants, trees, and cut flowers (may require an import permit)
- ▶ wood and wood products
- ▶ fruits and vegetables (may require an import permit)
- ▶ pets, birds and other live animals (require an import permit or vaccination documentation)
- ▶ feathers and down
- ▶ seeds and nuts
- ▶ baby formula