

# CHAPTER 2

## Organization of National Veterinary Authority of Thailand

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The Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, is a National Veterinary Authority of Thailand. The DLD is responsible for animal health, animal production and livestock extension, food safety of animal-derived products, veterinary public health, animal welfare, environmental impact of livestock farms and international animal health matters including disease control and eradication, quarantine, disease reporting, import-export controls, health certification, and monitoring of animal farms and slaughterhouses.

The DLD includes officers from central, regional, provincial, and district levels who provide services on animal health controls and veterinary public health controls and undertake disease surveillance programs in the country. Apart from DLD officers, Subdistrict Livestock Assistants (so-called “Pa-Su-Sad Tambon”) and livestock volunteers (or community animal health workers) also provide support in relevant to basic animal health activities in cooperation with local administrative authorities in sub-district and village level.

The responsibilities of the DLD are:

- To prevent, control, and eradicate animal diseases,
- To improve animal health and productivity,
- To increase livestock population in the country,
- To improve and regulate animal products in terms of variety, quantity, and quality to meet the national and international standards,
- To monitor and ensure the safety and quality of products of animal origins for domestic consumption as well as exports,
- To encourage scientific study, research, and experiment in relation to animal production and health,
- To disseminate information, knowledge and technology on animal production and health to farmers and other stakeholders, and
- To enforce related animal health and veterinary public health laws.

The DLD is supervised by a Director-General (DG) and four Deputy Director-Generals (DDGs), and other executive administrative officers (Directors). Each DDG is in charge of administration, animal health, food safety and animal production and extension. The DLD’s Director-General, as the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), is the OIE Permanent Delegate of Thailand (Figure 2-2).

Administratively, DLD is divided into 9 bureaus, 1 national institute, 8 divisions/units/offices at the central level and 9 regional offices (Figure 2-3).

- Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services
- Bureau of Veterinary Biologics
- Bureau of Quality Control of Livestock Products
- Bureau of Livestock Standards and Certification
- Bureau of Biotechnology in Livestock Production

- Bureau of Livestock Development and Extension
- Bureau of Animal Breeding Development
- Bureau of Animal Nutrition Development
- Bureau of Legal Affairs
- National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH)
- Division of Personnel
- Division of Finance
- Division of Planning
- Division of Livestock Foreign Affairs
- Information Technology Center
- Internal Audit Unit
- Administrative Development Unit
- Office of Department Secretary
- Regional Livestock Office 1 to 9 (RLO)

Each bureau or division, supervised by a Director, is subdivided into sections and sub-divisions depending on its tasks and internal structures. Figure 2.3 shows the organization chart of DLD. For the administration purpose and geographical condition, Thailand is divided into 9 livestock administrative regions: - Region 1 and 7 in the Central; Region 2 in the East; Region 3 and 4 in the Northeast; Region 5 and 6 in the North, and Region 8 and 9 in the South. These 9 regions are further divided into 77 provinces (Figure 2.4). Each region consists of 7-10 provinces, and each Provincial Livestock Office (PLO) is headed by a Provincial Livestock Officer. Each provincial livestock office is then subdivided into District Livestock Offices (DLO). Apart from DLD officials at provincial and district level, trained Subdistrict Livestock Assistants and village livestock volunteers have also provided basic animal health support at subdistrict and village level. In collaboration with Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Interior, all DLD staff at provincial, district and subdistrict level work closely together with public health officials and Subdistrict Administration Organizations.



Figure 2-1. Head office of the Department of Livestock Development, Bangkok, Thailand



Dr. Tritsadee Chaosuancharoen  
Director General



Dr. Thanit Anekwit  
Deputy DG



Dr. Ayuth Harintharanon  
Deputy DG



Dr. Nirundorn Aungtrakoolsuk  
Deputy DG



Dr. Vimolporn Thitisak  
Deputy DG

Figure 2-2. Director-General and Deputy Director-General of Department of Livestock Development

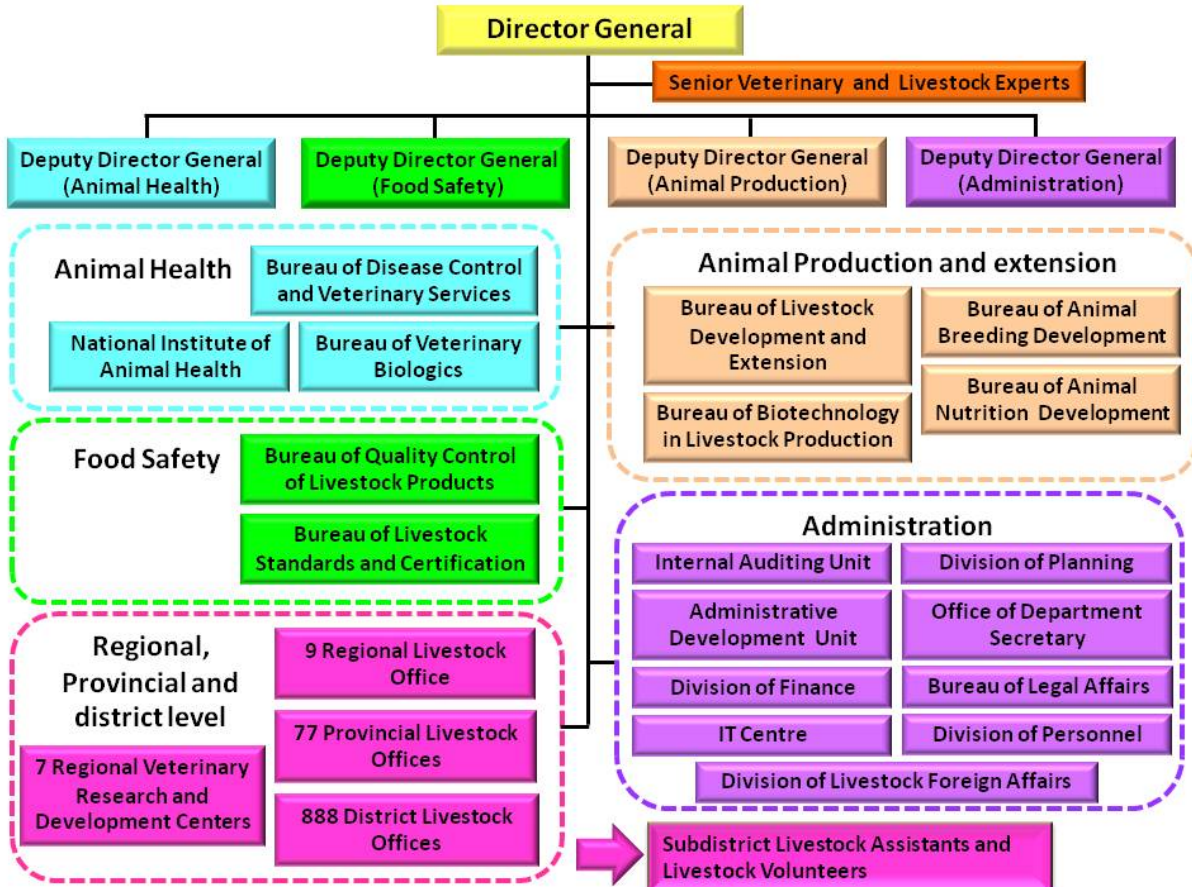


Figure 2-3. Organization chart of the Thailand's Department of Livestock Development (DLD)

The animal health, veterinary public health, laboratory services and international animal health cooperation of the DLD are delivered through

- Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services (BDCVS),
- National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH),
- Bureau of Veterinary Biologics (BVB),
- Bureau of Livestock Standards and Certification (BLSC),
- Bureau of Quality Control of Livestock Products (BQCLP),
- Bureau of Biotechnology in Livestock Production (BBLP),
- Division of Livestock Foreign Affairs (DLFA),
- Regional Livestock Office - 9 regions (RLO),
- 7 Regional Veterinary Research and Development Centers (RVRDC),
- 77 Provincial Livestock Offices, and
- 888 District Livestock Offices.

### **Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services (BDCVS)**

The Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services is responsible for planning, coordination and monitoring of control, prevention, and eradication programs and activities of important animal and zoonotic diseases including disease reporting system, animal disease surveillance and monitoring programs, animal movement management, import and export controls, epidemiological studies, provision of animal health service. In addition, training courses the field epidemiology training program for veterinarians (FETPV) were organized for DLD staff at regional, provincial and district level.

The Bureau also disseminates information on animal health, animal diseases, and surveillance activities to veterinarians, farmers, consumers, private sectors, government agencies, and decision makers. In addition, BDCVS collaborates with other national agencies, especially Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health and empowers local administrative authority know as “Subdistrict Administration Organization” in prevention, control, and eradication of animal and zoonotic diseases.

### **Bureau of Veterinary Biologics (BVB)**

The Bureau of Veterinary Biologics is responsible for production of veterinary biological products including bacterial and viral vaccines; *Poultry vaccines*: Newcastle disease Lasota strain (ND), Infectious bronchitis (IB), Fowl cholera, Fowl pox, Duck plague; *Cattle vaccines*: Foot and mouth disease (FMD), Haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS), Brucellosis strain 19, Anthrax, Blackleg; *Swine vaccine*: FMD, Classical swine fever (CSF). In addition, BVB also produces and supplies diagnostic reagents such as Rose-Bengal Brucella antigen, Plate- and Tube-agglutination Brucella antigen and Pullorum antigen for laboratory diagnosis and surveillance activities. It also conducts studies and research to improve biological production.

### **National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH)**

The National Institute of Animal Health located in Bangkok is Thailand’s animal diagnostic and research facility. NIAH is designated as the national veterinary reference laboratory and also provides services for training in animal disease diagnosis for animal health field and laboratory staff. Moreover, NIAH has been accredited for ISO/IEC:17025 for veterinary diagnosis since 2007. NIAH has provided diagnostic services to several countries during the emergence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 outbreaks in Asia. Laboratory network has been established for research and collaboration in the country and the region. Several international training courses on animal disease diagnosis have been organized for participants from other countries in the region.

In term of the animal health laboratory network, there are 7 other Regional Veterinary Research and Development Centers (RVRDCs) located throughout the country. These laboratories provide services on animal disease diagnosis and safety of animal-derived products. Additionally, the Regional Reference Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease FMD in Southeast Asia (RRL) in Pakchong, Nakhon Ratchasima Province is a designated OIE Reference Laboratory for Foot and



Mouth Disease which serves as the central or national laboratory for FMD diagnosis in Thailand and as OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD to OIE member countries.

### **Bureau of Quality Control of Livestock Products (BQCLP)**

The Bureau of Quality Control of Livestock Products is responsible for providing laboratory services and monitoring the quality and safety of food of animal origins, animal products, and animal feed. In addition, use of veterinary drugs is also monitored at farm level, and samples are collected nationwide for further testing. Several analyses of microbiology, heavy metals, pesticides, and veterinary drug residues have been conducted to ensure safety and quality of animal-derived products. All laboratory techniques are conformed to national and international standards. In addition, BQCLP also conducts analyses and quality control of veterinary biological products.

### **Bureau of Livestock Standards and Certification (BLSC)**

The Bureau of Livestock Standards and Certification is responsible for promoting, regulating and monitoring a good practice of livestock standards, certification of livestock farms, feedmills, slaughterhouses, manufacturing plants, inspection and control of animal slaughtering, meat and meat product processing, egg product processing, dairy product processing, and pet food processing.

### **Bureau of Biotechnology in Livestock Production (BBLP)**

The Bureau of Biotechnology in Livestock Production is responsible for conducting biotechnology research (e.g., in vitro/in vivo fertilisation, sexing, etc), progeny testing and providing artificial insemination services to farmers.

### **Division of Livestock Foreign Affairs (DLFA)**

The Division of Livestock Foreign Affairs is responsible for building up the international cooperation with other countries and international organizations in regard to SPS/veterinary technical and trade issues. Market access for exports to other countries is a priority of the division to work with all stakeholders. The Division is also designated as a focal point for international organization on animal health matters such as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

### **Regional Livestock Office (RLO)**

There are 9 Regional Livestock Offices which are located throughout the country (Figure 2.4). RLO is responsible for coordination, supervision and monitoring of all activities on animal health, animal production and extension, veterinary public health and food safety in its region.

### **Provincial Livestock Office and District Livestock Office**

At the provincial level, there are 77 Provincial Livestock Offices (PLOs) (Figure 2.4) and 888 District Livestock Offices (DLOs). The PLO and DLO are responsible for implementation of all activities and programs on animal health, animal production and livestock extension, veterinary public health and food safety of animal-derived products including administrative matters in each province and district. The Provincial Livestock Office also coordinates and supervises all activities with District Livestock Offices. Each PLO is comprised of 3 to 32 districts depending on the provincial boundaries. Moreover, Subdistrict Livestock Assistants and livestock volunteers also help DLD deliver basic animal health activities to farmers at subdistrict and village level including disease reporting.

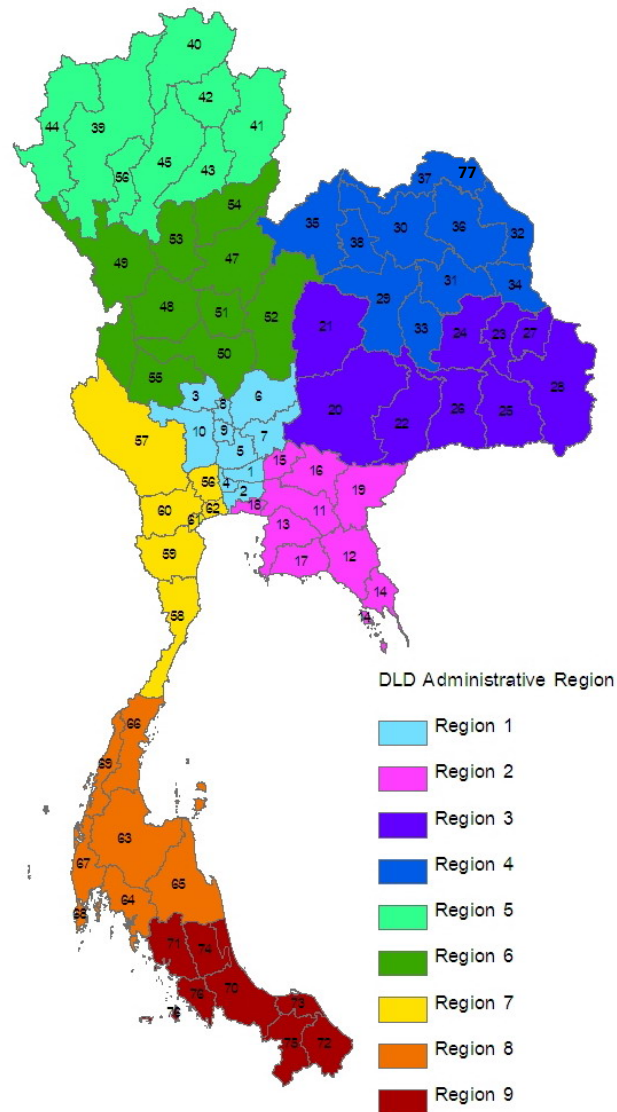


Figure 2-4. Map of Thailand showing 9 administrative livestock regions.

Region 1

1. Pathumthani
2. Bangkok
3. Chainat
4. Nonthaburi
5. Ayutthaya
6. Lopburi
7. Saraburi
8. Singburi
9. Angthong
10. Suphanburi

Region 2

11. Chachoengsao
12. Chantaburi
13. Chonburi
14. Trat
15. Nakhonnayok
16. Prachinburi
17. Rayong
18. Samutprakan
19. Sakaeo

Region 3

20. Nakhonratchasima
21. Chaiyaphum
22. Buriram
23. Yasothon
24. Roiet
25. Sisaket
26. Surin
27. Amnatcharoen
28. Ubonratchathani

Region 4

29. Khonkaen
30. Udonthani
31. Kalasin
32. Nakhonphanom
33. Mahasarakham
34. Mukdahan
35. Loei
36. Sakonnakhon
37. Nongkhai
38. Nong Baulumphu
77. Bueng Kan

Region 5

39. Chiangmai
40. Chiangrai
41. Nan
42. Payao
43. Phrae
44. Maehongsorn
45. Lampang
56. Lamphun

Region 6

47. Phitsanuloke
48. Kampaengpat
49. Tak
50. Nakhonsawan
51. Phichit
52. Phetchabun
53. Sukhothai
54. Uttaradit
55. Uthaitani

Region 7

56. Nakhonpathom
57. Kanchanaburi
58. Prachuapkhirikan
59. Phetchaburi
60. Ratchaburi
61. Samutsongkhram
62. Samutsakhon

Region 8.

63. Suratthani
64. Krabi
65. Nakhonsrithammarat
66. Chumpon
67. Pungnga
68. Phuket
69. Ranong

Region 9

70. Songkhla
71. Trang
72. Narathiwat
73. Phatthani
74. Phatthalung
75. Yala
76. Satun

## Animal health and veterinary legislation

With regard to animal health controls and veterinary public health controls, several laws have been enforced in order to reduce the risk of animal disease and to regulate animal health, veterinary public health and veterinary services in Thailand (Table 2-1). The following laws are:

**Table 2-1. Laws on animal health, veterinary public health and other related issues enforced in Thailand**

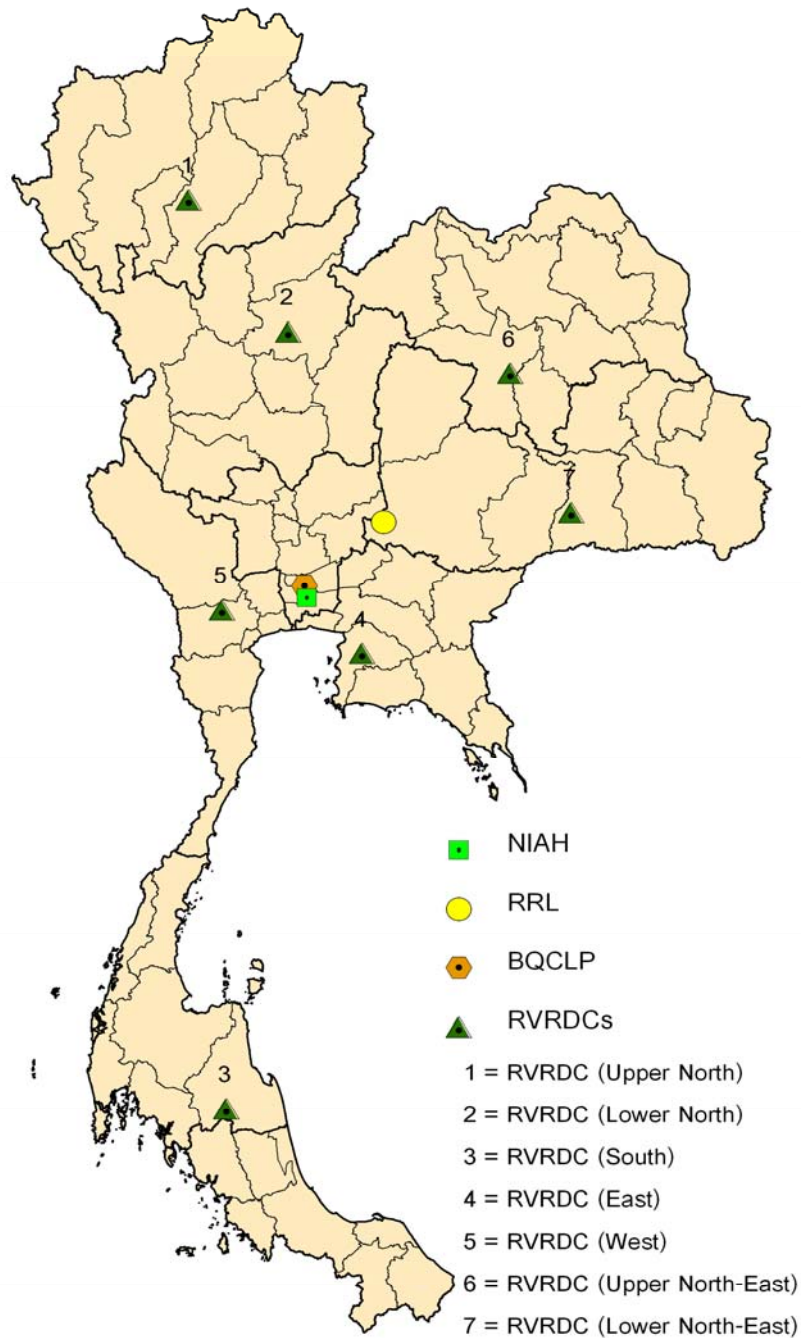
Full responsibility and enforcement by DLD	Partial responsibility and enforcement by DLD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal Epidemics Act B.E. 2499 (1956), and its revision B.E. 2542 (1999)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug Act B.E. 2510 (1967) and its revision B.E. 2530 (1987)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Veterinary Clinic Act B.E. 2533 (1990)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Act B.E. 2522 (1979)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rabies Act B.E. 2535 (1992)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazardous Substance Act B.E. 2535 (1992)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slaughter and Meat Sale Act B.E. 2535 (1992)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agricultural Standards Act B.E. 2551 (2008)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feed Quality Control B.E. 2535 (1992)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Environmental Quality Act B.E. 2535 (1992)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Veterinary Profession Act B.E. 2545 (2002)</li> </ul>

According to the Animal Epidemics Act B.E. 2499 (1956) and its revision B.E. 2542 (1999), there are certain regulations being enforced by the veterinary authority which include animal disease control, quarantine, and import-export controls of animal and animal products. The veterinary authority has the right to keep animals isolated to examine, test, vaccinate and even destroy without delay whenever an outbreak of disease occurs. In the case of destroying animals, there is a financial compensation of 75% of animal value. The veterinary authority also has the power to regulate, restrict, limit and even prohibit the movement of animals and of any substances which may constitute a health hazard to other areas. The violator of this Act shall be liable to imprisonment or is subject to a fine or both.

## Animal health laboratory facilities and networks

National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) works on animal disease diagnostic and research facility and also provides training in animal disease diagnosis for the nation's animal health field and laboratory staff. NIAH is designated as the national veterinary laboratory. In addition, several international training courses on animal disease diagnosis are also organized for other countries in the region.

In regard to a national veterinary laboratory framework in Thailand, there are 8 other government animal health laboratories. Seven laboratories are regional ones namely the Regional Veterinary Research and Development Centers (RVRDCs) which are situated nationwide. There are 2 RVRDCs in the North in Lampang and Pitsanuloke Provinces, 2 RVRDCs in the Northeast in Khon Kean and Surin Provinces, 1 RVRDC in the Central in Ratchaburi Province, 1 in the East in Chonburi Province, and 1 RVRDC in the South in Nakhonsrithammarat Province). Additionally, the Foot and Mouth Disease Regional Reference Laboratory at Pak Chong, Nakhonratchasima Province is a designated OIE Regional Reference Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease in South East Asia (RRL) (Figure 2-5). National veterinary laboratories provide a wide range of diagnostic services and are involved in various research activities. Private and university laboratories also do additional diagnostic and investigative works in close collaboration with the government laboratories. Success of laboratory facilities requires cooperation across the network.



**Figure 2-5. Locations of national and regional official laboratories (i.e. National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) in Bangkok and 7 Regional Veterinary Research and Development Centers (RVRDCs), Regional Reference Laboratory for FMD in South East Asia) and Quality Control of Livestock Product Laboratory**



## Human resources for animal health services

By implementing measures that mitigate risks of animal diseases and deter hazardous activities, the Thailand's Department of Livestock Development (DLD) works to ensure healthy animal populations, safe food supplies, rapid response to animal health emergencies, effective disease control programs, functional surveillance and reporting systems, and expansion of export markets. In this regard, a number of DLD staff performing animal health and veterinary public health controls at the central, regional and local level is shown in Tables 2-2 and 2-3.

**Table 2-2. A number of DLD officials, 2011**

Position	Number of personnel			Total
	Central	Regional	Province/ District	
1. Director General and Deputy DGs	5	0	0	5
2. Director (Bureau, Division, Institute) and Chief of Province Livestock Offices	15	9	77	100
3. Veterinary officials	192	176	244	612
4. Para-veterinary officials	52	212	1,335	1,599
5. Animal husbandry scientists	71	222	326	619
6. Animal husbandry technicians	7	173	398	578
7. Laboratory scientists	70	52	0	122
8. Other staff	333	255	218	806
<b>Total</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>4,441</b>

**Table 2-3. A number of DLD contractual personnel, 2011**

Position	Number of personnel			Total
	Central	Regional	Province/ District	
1. Veterinarians	46	2	0	48
2. Animal husbandry scientists	95	93	171	359
3. Animal husbandry technicians	29	390	1,352	1,771
4. Laboratory scientists	258	185	12	455
5. Other staff	739	2,384	729	3,852
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>6,485</b>