



National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

September 1, 2011

Minutes

Participants

John Bowers	Julie Van Meter	Kathy Handy	Joel Floyd
Brian Kopper	Chris Pierce	Lisa Jackson	
Kristian Rondeau	Rachel Braud*	Melinda Sullivan	
Joel Bard	Nancy Richwine	John Crowe	
Vicki Smith	Laurinda Ramonda	Susan Schechter	
Joe Collins	Helmuth Rogg	Eileen Luke	

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FY12 Budget

The FY12 budget is unknown at this time. We are expecting some reductions, but we do not know how much and where the impacts will be felt. PPQ has no control over the timing. Funds will come from the Department and Agency after Congress passes and the president signs the appropriations bill. Please pay attention to messages from the Regional Offices. Budget information will come from these offices as it becomes available. In a nutshell, we do not have any funds for FY12 until Congress and the Administration gives it to us, we get what we get, and we do not know when that will be. As in previous years, expect a continuing resolution to begin the fiscal year based on FY11 funding.

Farm Bill

The Regions are completing the agreements for FY11, and should be finished soon. The process for FY12 has been started. The Farm Bill team has been reviewing and updating the process for requesting, submitting, and reviewing suggestions, as well as tweaking the reporting process and SharePoint site. Guidance for submitting suggestions is being developed and will be communicated as the open period for submitting suggestions approaches. Farm Bill funding follows the same process as outlined above; Congress needs to pass and the Administration needs to sign the appropriation bill that gives APHIS the authority to request the CCC funds.

Approved Methods

There has been a change in the taxonomy and approved methods for the genus *Dendrolimus*. An email from the CAPS R&C site will let you know what changes have been made to the Approved Methods (see last month's conference call minutes). The changes are summarized below.

2012

There are four *Dendrolimus* targets offered for the 2012 survey season:

- *Dendrolimus pini* (Pine-tree lappet)

Note: A reminder to the NCC, please distribute CAPS updates, conference-call minutes, and other CAPS-related information to the constituency that you represent in a timely manner. Also, please bring their items, issues, concerns, and opinions back to the NCC for discussion. It is our responsibility that everyone is kept engaged in the CAPS program.



- *Dendrolimus punctatus* (Masson pine moth)
 - *Dendrolimus sibiricus* (Syn.: *Dendrolimus superans sibiricus*) (Siberian silk moth)
 - *Dendrolimus superans* (Sakhalin silk moth)
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- *Dendrolimus superans sibiricus* has been renamed as *D. sibiricus*, and *D. superans* has been classified as a distinct species.
 - For 2012, a combined lure is to be used for both *D. pini* and *D. sibiricus* (*Dendrolimus pini* - *Dendrolimus sibiricus* lure). The trap will be the gypsy moth milk carton trap. Thus, one lure and trap combination can be used for both targets.
 - *Dendrolimus punctatus* will require a separate trap and lure combination.
 - An attractant is not known or available for *D. superans* at this time. *Dendrolimus superans* should not be listed as a survey target for 2012.

2011

As of today's call, no data has been entered into NAPIS for any *Dendrolimus* species for 2011 surveys, even though nine states listed one or two *Dendrolimus* species in their work plans. The good news is that there is now the opportunity to enter the data correctly.

- Data for *D. pini* can be entered using the wing trap and *Dendrolimus pini* lure that was recommended in the Approved Methods for 2011 (just remember that this will change for 2012).
- Data for *D. superans sibiricus* should be entered as *D. sibiricus* with the current lure being used.
- Data for *D. superans* also should be entered as *D. sibiricus*. The lure used in 2011 and previous years was effective in attracting *D. sibiricus*; it is not known if the lure is attractive to *D. superans*.
- No states listed *D. punctatus* in their work plans. States wishing to enter data for *D. punctatus* should consult with Lisa for guidance.

2010 and earlier

A review of the data in NAPIS from 2000 to the present generated no positives and 489 negative records for *D. pini*, 40 negative records for *D. sibiricus*, and 4711 negative records for *D. superans*. Based on the lures used during that time frame, data for *D. pini* and *D. sibiricus* are fine as is. However, the lure used to report negative data for *D. superans* (as the taxonomy currently stands) could lead to a misinterpretation of survey results as the lure attracts *D. sibiricus*, and it is not known if it would attract *D. superans*. Tests are being generated in these species natural range to try and determine the effectiveness of lures for *D. superans*.

The NCC considered several options: 1) hide the *D. superans* data from view in NAPIS and Pest Tracker until testing is complete, 2) post a warning on all pages where *D. superans* data appears letting viewers know that the negative data may be suspect and that further testing is underway to resolve the issue, 3) do nothing until testing is complete, or 4) change all the *D. superans* data in



NAPIS to *D. sibiricus*. The NCC chose option #2. Kathy, Susan, and Lisa will work on the appropriate language for a warning message alerting the user to the fact that the negative data for *D. superans* is under review pending further testing of the lure(s) used in the surveys.

CAPS Technologies Webinar

The date for the webinar with Terrence Walters to present technological possibilities to support CAPS has been confirmed as September 7, 2011, at 12:00 pm eastern time. Call-in information will be distributed to the NCC when arrangements are finalized. At this time the webinar is for those on the NCC conference calls only pending technological logistics. Melinda will check with Terrence to see if the presentation can be recorded. If so, it will be posted on the CAPS R&C site for viewing.

IPHIS Update

The CAPS program has been in continuing discussions with the IPHIS team on how best IPHIS can support the CAPS survey program. The sticking points have been the large number of pests being surveyed for in CAPS (295 in 2011 according to the J-3s submitted), the bundled survey concept and the fact that just about every CAPS bundled survey is unique, negative data validation, support of Pest Tracker, and some other minor issues. We have worked through these issues and have identified some solutions. The contractor now has funding through the rest of the year, and will be working on two main projects for CAPS without which we cannot continue.

The ‘backbone’ or ‘base’ of the IPHIS survey program is the pest complex. The pest complex contains all the information related to the survey: target pest, host(s), survey tools, etc. The problem is that the system cannot handle a large number of pests with different hosts and survey tools in a single complex. The linkages are just too great and the system basically crashes with the standard pest complex format. IPHIS was not built with an understanding of the CAPS program. To get around this limitation, the contractors will develop in IPHIS a CAPS Pest Dictionary (to use NAPIS terms) with the Priority Pests and all other pests that the states indicated that they will survey for on the submitted J-3s, along with the approved methods (the first main project). This will not be published to the system as other complexes, but will reside in the background. However, the Dictionary will be available to users as explained below. In addition to the Dictionary, the PPQ IPHIS team will create standard complexes for each of our commodity and taxon surveys.

Once all of this information is installed in IPHIS we can begin to develop data entry templates for each of the commodity and taxon complexes, as well as a general template. The templates will contain the pests in each commodity or taxon pest list. The pest list will be empty in the general template. The contractors will work on redefining templates to include the ability of the user to add or delete pests from the template (the second main project). Users will delete pests that they are not surveying for, and add pests from the Dictionary to create data-entry templates



that are unique for the surveys in their state. Using this process, states will be able to create templates for surveys based on the surveys and pest lists in their work plans.

The contractors need to complete these projects by late October so that we can test these concepts and make sure that IPHIS will work the way we envision it to work. If the contractors do not have the work done, and we cannot begin testing and developing complexes and templates, by November 1, then the decision will be made that CAPS will use NAPIS exclusively in 2012. Further direction for 2012 will be given in November depending on the status of the work and progress addressing other issues. Ideally, we needed to make these decisions now, but there was a delay in approving funding for the contractors through the remainder of the calendar year. With this funding, they are able to work on the CAPS projects, so we must show good faith and give them the time to schedule and get the work done.

The downside with the funding is that no other work specific to CAPS can be completed this calendar year. The development and implementation of the CAPS data project, where we are redefining the data fields and the order they are presented, will have to wait until next year. This means that the data fields and the order they appear on the spreadsheets and mobile devices will be the same in 2012 as 2011. This may cause some consternation, but is the reality of the contract and funding situation. As we learn more, the information certainly will be shared with the NCC and CAPS community.

Survey Supplies Procurement Program (SSPP)

The SSPP is developing a new survey supplies ordering system with inventory control to replace the now defunct Lotus Notes database. The system will reside as a separate module within IPHIS. This was done so that sometime in the future we will be able to link work plan submissions to survey supplies need to survey results. The system will have the look and feel of IPHIS but will be a separate entity for now. As such, the module will be web-based, and behind a firewall. Access will be through eAuthentication, as is IPHIS. The ordering module is due to be delivered by the contractors in October, and will be ready to accept orders late October into November. Shipments will begin in January 2012. Early looks and testing currently are underway. More information on the exact dates will be forthcoming as the time draws near.

Orders will go through an approval process before shipment. All orders will need to be approved by a state approver. While the states will be able to submit their orders, they must be approved by PPQ in the state before going on to the Region. The state approver role is to support the objectives of the survey, be certain the quantities are in line with the planned surveys and expected funding, and make sure the request is approved and forwarded in a timely manner.

SharePoint is being used to develop a communication list and a list of PPQ approvers in each state. The list can be reviewed at the link below. Question should be directed to John Crowe.
<http://ppqersharepoint.we.aphis.gov/national/edp/PD/surveysupplies/Lists/State%20Approvers/State%20Approvers%20Grouping.aspx>



The next NCC call will be on **Thursday, October 6, at 11:00 am eastern time.**