



## National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

April 12, 2012

### Minutes

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#### Participants

John Bowers	Julie Van Meter	Kathy Handy	Susan Schechter
Kristian Rondeau	Scott Blackwood*	Lisa Jackson	Eileen Luke
Terry Bourgoin	Nancy Richwine	Melinda Sullivan	Charles Pierre
Joel Bard	Laurinda Ramonda	Talitha Molet	
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\* for Avi Eitam

#### 2013 Guidelines

The tentative publication date for the 2013 Survey Guidelines has been pushed back to May 1. We hope that this does not cause any inconvenience, but is unavoidable at this time. Draft copies for NCC review will be posted on the CAPS R&C site (login required). Send any questions, comments, and/or suggestions to John as soon as possible.

#### 2013 Guidelines - Funding

Overall, CAPS funding for cooperative agreements has remained relatively flat over the last several years, with some state-specific adjustments made as necessary. This scenario is unlikely to continue because of the direction to reduce spending government-wide. 2012 is an election year, and it is possible that a FY13 budget will not be passed until after the elections. There is some speculation that 2013 may have a series of continuing resolutions of unknown duration. The continuing resolutions typically are based on the previous year's funding, but may be less. We will not know until the resolution is passed by Congress and signed by the President.

Currently, the President has submitted his budget to Congress. The Pest Detection line item, which is where the funds for cooperative agreements are drawn, was reduced by \$1.8 million. We are speculating that a final budget if/when passed will include a reduction to the Pest Detection line around \$1.5–1.8 million, but may be more or less. This is approximately a 22–26% decrease in funding.

Cooperative agreements may be impacted, but to what degree is unknown. The best case scenario will fund agreements at 2012 levels. The worst case scenario funds agreements with a 22% across-the-board reduction in total Pest Detection funding (each state may receive up to 22% less than their 2012 funding level). Other budget items funded from the Pest Detection line item also may be decreased by a similar amount. Hopefully, the final outcome will not be as severe, but this is unknown at this time.

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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.



The CAPS Management team is working on several scenarios should a decrease in funding for state cooperative agreements become a reality, but no decisions have been made. At this time, a risk-based state funding formula is not being considered for FY13.

Guidance from the CAPS program is to plan work based on 2012 funding. No states will see an increase in funding for 2013. States should then evaluate what this work looks like if a decrease in funding is to occur and be prepared to prioritize the work. At this time, the CAPS Survey Guidelines will not change significantly, and should not impact the preparing of work plans for 2013.

The future is uncertain, and no decisions on how to proceed have been made. States are advised to examine the situation in their particular state, and develop a plan should reductions in CAPS funding be necessary.

States also should be aware that PPQ has been directed that it is inappropriate to fund activities for a program that Congress has reduced the funding. We cannot attempt to do an 'end-run' around Congress' intentions by funding those activities. The CAPS program will need to be careful when reviewing proposed work plans that we do not violate this direction.

### **2013 Guidelines - Appendix J-3**

The CAPS program, in cooperation with Purdue, is moving to an online interface for filling out the J-3 appendix. This will be housed within the CAPS R&C site, and your login will be required. Reporting functions will be incorporated for the states and CAPS program management. Once the state submits the completed information, the state PPQ office will be required to acknowledge review before it will be reviewed by the Regional CAPS Program Manager. The states will not have to submit an electronic copy of the J-3 appendix with their work plans as in the past. The state J-3 will be available to the Regions online. (Work plans will be submitted to the Regions as in the past as they follow a different path leading up to the development of the cooperative agreements).

The new J-3 interface will be beta-tested with 2012 Farm Bill work plans. Guidance will be forthcoming.

### **2013 Guidelines - Surveys**

During review of the 2012 Farm Bill suggestions it was noted that states were submitting suggestions that duplicated what was submitted under CAPS and other funding sources. In some cases, agreements were already in place, or close to being signed. This causes a lot of extra work for the Regional program and cooperative agreement staffs, especially when juggling multiple funding sources over multiple states for multiple survey projects. We understand the reasons states do this, but this is a practice that must be discouraged.



To that end, and to facilitate reporting over multiple programs, the suggestion was made to split the Designed Surveys between CAPS funding and Farm Bill funding. The Farm Bill is all about Specialty Crops and risk at ports of entry. As such, it is recommended that the Grape, Stone Fruit, and Asian Defoliator (new for 2013, and available early summer) Surveys be funded only through the Farm Bill. Additionally, other Bundled Surveys with a Specialty Crop emphasis also should be suggested for Farm Bill funding. Examples include: Orchard (Apple, Pear, etc.), Solanaceous (Tomato, Eggplant, Pepper, etc.), Fruit Flies, and other fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop surveys. The list of specialty crops on the USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service website can be found by clicking [here](#).

The taxon and non-specialty crop surveys (EWB/BB, Cyst Nematodes, Corn, Cotton, Oak, Pine, Small Grains, and Soybean) would be funded only through CAPS. However, in certain situations where a strong pathway component from a port of entry is identified, an EWB/BB survey may be acceptable for Farm Bill funding (e.g., solid wood packing material).

The NCC supported this recommendation by consensus. The appropriate language will be incorporated into the 2013 Survey Guidelines.

States are discouraged from submitting similar work plans or suggestions to both the CAPS and Farm Bill programs. Projects or surveys not adhering to these Guidelines may not be reviewed or funded in either venue.

### **2013 Guidelines - Reporting**

An addition to the 2013 Guidelines will be a reporting section devoted to activities that are carried out under Infrastructure funding. In some quarters, the perception is that the strictly numerical percent of the total CAPS agreement dedicated to Infrastructure funding is out-of-balance with Survey funding, especially in some cases where Infrastructure funding is far greater than Survey funding. Going strictly by the numbers, the question arises on what is the return on the Infrastructure investment. The CAPS program has tried to rectify the numerical part of the equation by encouraging states to put in Infrastructure only that which directly supports the SSC position, and to charge to survey, costs directly associated with survey, including personnel expenses.

The CAPS program recognizes the value of supporting the SSC position through Infrastructure funding. Without this support, CAPS, Farm Bill, and other program surveys and projects, including outreach, in the states would not be possible. These activities, however, are not being captured and documented sufficiently to argue in support of continued Infrastructure funding in the face of the apparent numerical inequality. In an attempt to capture the various activities funded under the Infrastructure component, a new reporting section with suggested metrics will be added to the 2013 Guidelines. This will be required for FY13 agreements, but strongly suggested when FY12 reports are developed. It is only through the efforts of the states to report



on the various activities carried out in the states that the CAPS program can document and successfully argue the merits of continued Infrastructure funding.

### **Farm Bill Update**

A draft spending plan has been developed with the efforts of a dedicated group of federal and state personnel. Over 520 suggestions were evaluated and rated according to pre-defined criteria. The draft spending plan now goes to the Deputy Administrator and up the chain to the USDA Undersecretary for approval. Once approval has been obtained, the various APHIS units will start asking for work plans for the approved projects. The time frame for approval is unknown as other factors out of PPQ's control may come into play. We are hoping the approval comes sooner rather than later. The status of any submitted suggestion will not be known or communicated until the spending plan is approved.

**Next NCC call will be on Thursday, May 3, 2012, at 11:00 am eastern time.**