



## National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

June 6, 2013

### Minutes

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#### Participants

John Bowers	Julie Van Meter	Laurinda Ramonda	Joel Floyd
Brian Kopper	Brad Lewis	Helmuth Rogg	John Crowe
Rick Zink	Avi Eitam	Talitha Molet	Valerie Defeo
Terry Bourgoin	Carol Motloch	Melinda Sullivan	Kristian Rondeau
Joel Bard	Saul Vaiciunas	Kathy Handy	Dan Mackesy
Joe Collins	Sherry Aultman	Susan Schechter	

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#### 2013/2014 Funding

Cooperative agreements for FY13 were cut by about 7.8% across the board due to budget sequestration. Brian is still waiting on 12 to 15 more work plan addendums, but so far it seems as though most states have been reducing their surveys as opposed to cutting surveys completely. Please submit any outstanding work plan addendums as soon as possible.

The situation for the FY14 budget is still unclear. The President's budget for Pest Detection is similar to FY12 levels, so the CAPS Program may not be in as bad a shape as previously thought. However, the budget is not final, and things may change once the Senate and House mark up the appropriations bills.

States should use the final FY13 funding for their state as the baseline for planning 2014 surveys. The program may be able to add funds later if we do receive an increase over FY13. States will be provided with more information on the FY14 budget as it becomes available.

Will sequestration continue for next year's budget? We are unsure if this will occur, and do not have any information on this topic at this time. Remember, the only tangible piece of information we have now is the President's budget, and things usually change before all is said and signed in an appropriations bill.

#### 2014 Guidelines Published

The 2014 Guidelines are now available on the CAPS Resource & Collaboration site. If there are any questions or comments, please contact John or Brian.

#### CAPS Leadership Meeting

John, Brian, and Rick will be meeting next week in Ft. Collins to discuss important issues facing the CAPS program; specifically, how to fund states equitably, how to better balance infrastructure and survey funding, etc. This meeting should lead to the development of some

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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.



ideas and topics that can be brought back to the NCC for discussion. This is the beginning of the process, so changes that come about due to these discussions will likely not begin to take effect until 2015 or later.

The leadership group will discuss how to better harmonize differences in the program and determine the best way to do things. Because of the recent merging of the Eastern and Western Regions into Field Operations there are still differences that need to be addressed. In particular, Brian would like to eventually get states on the same/similar calendar year (Jan-Dec) if possible. When surveys are on different time frames, it can be difficult to know if all of the survey data is in and makes planning and program management more difficult. Right now, the group will look at identifying what the external and internal differences are and what changes should be made so the program can be more standardized. This information also will be brought back to the NCC for discussion.

The leadership group also will look into whether we can better coordinate the agreement processes for Farm Bill and CAPS agreements. The next Farm Bill does have the legislative “fix” in it so we will not have to wait until a Continuing Resolution or appropriations bill to contain the “fix” before Farm Bill can proceed. If all goes well and the new Farm Bill passes, PPQ will be better able to have a consistent timeline for Farm Bill processes. This will help with planning and synchronizing with CAPS processes.

### **Agreements**

Agreements can no longer be scanned and sent in. They should be mailed in with the original signature. Contact Brian if you have any questions.

### **Consensus data**

During previous conference calls, the NCC was asked to discuss with their constituency if their individual state was comfortable with automatically renewing their consensus data year after year. Currently, it is a manual process, but many states are not keeping this data up-to-date. A related question to consider is that if consensus data does the same thing as established by survey, which comes to the same conclusion/result, but from a different angle, should established by survey be treated the same as consensus data?

General feedback from the group is that states believe it makes sense to roll the data over automatically for both consensus data and established by survey data. States should provide appropriate justification to remove a pest from the ‘established by survey’ or ‘established by consensus’ lists.

There was a question as to whether rolling this data over would broaden the scope of the maps. This should not be the case. If a state has ‘established by survey’ or ‘established by consensus’ for a specific species, they are defining why they are no longer surveying for that species in that



county. Also, providing this information is in agreement with the ISPM definition of survey which is broader than focused, specific, targeted surveys of the CAPS program.

The group should understand that NAPIS survey maps are not distribution maps as not all pests are surveyed for across the country. The maps are considered summary profiles. CAPS leadership does understand that the maps are sometimes used by trading partners and others to look at whether a species has or has not been found in a certain area.

Susan will compile a list of the consensus data for each state and will post it to the CAPS Resource and Collaboration site. The NCC should let their constituency know that this information is available for review for their state. Reviews should be completed by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Changes or corrections should be sent to Kathy to review. Afterwards, records will be rolled over year after year, or until a state provides justification otherwise. The same process will be used when requesting a change to a NAPIS record that is now in place.

### **Purdue update; NAPIS, CAPS R&C, Pest Tracker**

NAPIS is currently being converted from a legacy platform to the MySQL platform. This is the same platform that is being used for many other sites, including the CAPS Resource and Collaboration and Pest Tracker sites. This will allow more integration among the different sites.

Once the conversion is complete, users should see several improvements. The CAPS Approved Methods (CAM) will be merged more directly with the NAPIS data upload; when a target falls off CAM, NAPIS will no longer force negative data validation. This will become automatic. Users also will be able to use their CAPS login for NAPIS (there no longer will be a separate username and password for NAPIS). This allows users to request password resets more efficiently. Improvements also have been made to the various dictionaries. There will be more sorting and filtering options than before when requesting reports. While improvements are being incorporated, the working group tried to keep things as familiar as possible so users will still know how to use the site. The features available now will still be available in the new platform, but may be expanded in scope.

**Big Improvement!** Users will be able to upload excel files directly into NAPIS. The column headers must be included to accurately upload the file. This will allow for new elements to be added more quickly. When completed, the Survey Name will be added to the list of data fields. This will be the same survey name as entered in the Survey Summary Form during work plan development. There also will be an option to add a report that would be generated on a regular basis so it can be pulled at any time.

The converted site (with all changes) should be available for roll out by early fall. Stay tuned.



## **Survey Supplies**

Survey supply orders are currently caught up. If you haven't received your order yet and you did not just submit it, contact John Crowe.

## **Farm Bill**

States should have completed their Farm Bill Survey Summary forms by now. If not, it may delay approval for your state's work plan. States should continue to send work and financial plans. There is currently a staff shortage, so agreements may be delayed by a few days once submitted. If the delays will affect the start of your work, contact Kristian and he will point you in the right direction to get it sorted out.

A Farm Bill review is being planned for the near future. Individuals may be receiving solicitations for feedback soon.

## **Volunteer surveys**

There recently were a lot of emails being sent regarding volunteer surveys that was separate from Avi's efforts with the CAPS program's volunteer working group. We may not be advertising our work as effectively as we should. John has asked Avi, Joel Bard, and few others to put together a short document to be sent to PPQ Management letting them know what the CAPS program is doing regarding volunteering efforts. Once finished, it will be submitted to the DA's office for approval. Once approved, it will be ready for general distribution. This is our attempt to advertise the good work being done through CAPS, to gain more input into the subject of volunteer surveys, and to let everyone know that we are comfortable leading the way.

## **Miscellaneous Issues**

If any issue or topic comes up from wherever that the CAPS program or the NCC should address and/or respond to, please let John and Brian know. This will help prevent the topic from becoming an issue. Just as early detection of a pest saves time and money, early detection of a rumor or misinformation saves time and unwanted aggravation.

Postponed 1 week:

**The next NCC call will be on Thursday, July 11, 2013, at 11:00 am eastern time.**