



National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

October 24, 2013

Minutes

Participants

John Bowers	Brad Lewis	Helmuth Rogg	John Crowe
Rick Zink	Avi Eitam	Kathy Handy	Joel Floyd
Terry Bourgoin	Carol Motloch	Lisa Jackson	Susan Schechter
Joel Bard	Saul Vaiciunas	Talitha Molet	Eileen Luke
Piera Siergert	Sherry Aultman	Melinda Sullivan	Kristian Rondeau
Julie Van Meter	Laurinda Ramonda	Dan Mackesy	Monte Johnson
			Mike Cooper (guest)

FY14 Continuing Resolution (CR) and Budget

Congress passed, and the President signed a CR that funds the government from October 1, 2013 through January 15, 2014. The CR budget is based on the FY13 sequestered budget, or the final FY13 budget. This is the same budget that the CAPS Program asked the states to use when planning for FY14, so major changes to the work plans should not need to be made at this time. Under the CR, agreements will be funded through January 15 for 29.32% of the annual budget. At that time, agreements will be amended after we have more information on what will follow. Much will depend on the work of the joint budget committee and whether they can agree on a budget for the remainder of FY14. Otherwise, another round of sequestration may occur. We will keep you informed as we learn more going into 2014.

When states were asked how they would reduce their budgets given a 5% or 10% cut, most responded that they would reduce survey sites, but not cut out complete surveys if it was around a 5% cut. The Program may only lose coverage as opposed to eliminating surveys. If budget cuts around 10% occur, then the situation is more dramatic and complete surveys may be eliminated. However, yearly small cuts add up and will take a toll on our survey efforts. Obviously this is a situation we want to avoid, but may not have a choice if Congress cannot agree on a budget. Stay tuned.

Status of Work Plans and Agreements

Most of the Pest Detection FY14 agreements have been reviewed. Brian is still waiting on revisions or more information from some states. We have a dollar amount for agreements for most states; however, these cannot be officially approved until Brian receives a budget and develops a spending plan. Once Field Operations approves the spending plan, he can officially notify states. This should occur soon, but for now he is in a holding pattern.

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.



CAPS Deadlines

Some CAPS constituents are concerned about the CAPS deadlines for submitting work plans. Many states do not like that the deadline is so far ahead of the survey year, and suggest that the deadline be moved to September or October so they can have enough time to get through the current survey season, put their committees together, and decide on what they would like to survey for the following year. The NCC will address this question at the annual meeting when preparing the 2015 Guidelines. Be sure your representative on the NCC is aware of your thoughts on this matter (and others as well) in advance of the meeting.

Survey Supplies Ordering

States would like to know if they need an approved work plan in place before they can order their survey supplies. Currently, no work plans are approved due to the budget. Will states be held to this requirement? No, states will not be held to this. A message will be going out soon to explain and clarify. Instead of needing an approved work plan, states will need a submitted Survey Summary Form which was required when submitting work plans.

John Crowe has been hosting training on survey supply ordering. There are two more scheduled in November. While these are not required, they are helpful if you have any questions regarding the process. These also are open to order approvers. If you cannot make one of these, there is a PowerPoint presentation posted on the CAPS R&C site on this topic (found here: <http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/node/281>).

Orders for 2014 Farm Bill and the EAB program are delayed for 2014. Farm Bill ordering will be available after a FY14 spending plan is approved (mid-February to mid-March). EAB orders will be available in mid-February. EAB ordering should not occur unless it's being used for Pest Detection (e.g., goldspotted oak borer). If EAB is bundled in a survey, please wait until the EAB open period to order these supplies.

Survey Summary Forms

All states should have filled out the Survey Summary Forms for their CAPS work plans. Survey Summary Forms are used for CAPS, PPQ, and Farm Bill. A link to all three Forms are found now under the CAPS/PPQ/Farm Bill ribbon on the left side of the CAPS R&C site. This should make them easier to find instead of being scattered along the left ribbons (users will need to log in to see this menu option; http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/survey_summary). The link takes you to a separate page where all three are listed with their respective links to the Form. Currently, 2014 CAPS and PPQ Survey Summary Forms are available. The Farm Bill Survey Summary Form will not be available until a FY14 spending plan is approved.

Pest Prioritization Progress

The CPHST group has been putting the final touches on the questionnaires. So far, there is one for arthropods and one for plant pathogens. Pests can achieve a possible equal score on either list; however, by separating the questionnaires, the questions can be more meaningful and



specific to each pest type. PERAL scientists, interns, and the CPHST CAPS Core Team have been analyzing trial pests that are established in the United States to determine which questions are best at predicting impact. The pests are analyzed only based on information from outside the United States. The test questions then will be evaluated on how well each question predicted the eventual impact of the pests in the United States.

By November 1, 40 arthropods will have been analyzed. Starting in November, a statistician will begin assessing the predictive power of the questions for the arthropod model. The pathogen model will likely be analyzed in February/ March, as it is more complex and not as many trial pests have been completed yet.

The new model will break apart pest scores into three areas: Impact Potential, Hosts/ Range, and Entry Potential. These scores can be viewed separately or combined into one final score. The benefit is that a high-impact pest that is very host-specific or has only a very narrow geographic range can still rank high in Impact Potential before the other factors are considered. These types of pests may not be appropriate for the final national list but may be able to be pulled off for tropical states for instance. The other benefit is that the scientific information is captured in Impact Potential and is kept separate from information based on policy, which is captured in the other two sections. The economic component will be captured in the Hosts/ Range section. CAPS leadership will be able to determine the weights of specific hosts or crops based on their importance (economical, environmental, social, etc.).

Monochamus urussovii

There was a question from the field regarding the status of *Monochamus urussovii* and whether states can survey for it during the 2014 survey season. Currently, this species will not be available for survey in 2014.

This is a unique situation in that it was a new AHP pest, which seemed to pass the survey method portion of the Post-assessment. However, we recently found out that CPHST currently is conducting lure trials overseas. An approved method has not been provided because we want to hold off on the lure recommendation until the trials are completed.

A datasheet has been drafted for this pest and will be posted to the CAPS R&C site once finalized so information is readily available to states. Positive data will be accepted, but not negative data as there is no approved survey method. Lisa will talk with the two states that planned surveys for this species offline and discuss potential alternatives.

Mollusk Manual

Due to the amount of time needed to complete the pest prioritization project, the Mollusk manual, which was due to be released in the Spring of 2014, will be pushed back to the Spring of 2015. States have previously been carrying out mollusk surveys, and this was a way for CAPS to provide a formalized document similar to the other taxonomic/commodity survey manuals.



There are some mollusk datasheets currently available as standalone datasheets, and new mollusk datasheets will be published as they are finalized; however, the final document, including the introduction, will not be available until the Spring of 2015.

Other Manuals

There was a suggestion that the CAPS Program should consider adding a pea/pulse crops/legume commodity survey to the CAPS website. The NCC will discuss the need for additional commodity survey documents and determine if there is interest in the CAPS community and whether or not CPHST has the time and availability to work on new manuals.

Farm Bill Status

The government shutdown impacted the work and timeline that the Farm Bill team originally had proposed, and the team is now working to catch up. The full array of planned enhancements to the Metastorm application will not be implemented this year due to time constraints, but the team currently is working on some changes that will improve the user experience and help improve the suggestions received. The goal is to have an open period for suggestions beginning in November and running for 6 weeks. A PPQ Stakeholder Registry announcement was released Monday. Individuals should make sure that their Metastorm account is up to date and have subscribed to the Farm Bill Program in the Stakeholder Registry. This is the venue where all important announcements will be made.

The Farm Bill Program carries on even though a new Farm Bill has not yet been passed. The 2008 Farm Bill codified into law Section 10201 by amending the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. § 7721). Under (e) Funding, it states that the Secretary shall make available CCC funds to carry out this section in the amount of “\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter.” With this language, PPQ can continue to request CCC funds yearly without a new Farm Bill. While the FY13 budget for the Farm Bill program was reduced due to sequestration, we do not know at this time if that will happen again for FY14.

Volunteer Group Status

The CAPS working group is beginning to regroup after a busy survey season. The [Draft Guidelines](#) and an informational [White Paper](#) have been posted on the [CAPS Program page](#) of the CAPS R&C site for review by the CAPS community. Please review and share these documents with the CAPS community. Questions and those wishing to participate should contact Avi Eitam or Piera Siergert. A conference call is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, at 1:00 pm eastern time.

CAPS’opedia

Kay Kromm (NE) led a CAPS working group that developed CAPS’opedia (an alternative navigation option) on the CAPS R&C site (<http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/capsopedia>). It was determined that the CAPS’opedia site would be reviewed and updated every 6 to 8 months to make sure all of the information is up to date and relevant. Kay now has a new job, so we are



looking for a volunteer to take over Kay's leadership role. The individual's main responsibility would be to lead a group to make sure that all of the links work and to work with Susan at Purdue to add and delete links and suggest content as needed. This individual does not have to be on the NCC and the work would be on a part time basis. The individual also will take the initiative to lead the group to review the site every 6 to 8 months. NCC members should ask their constituency to see if anyone has an interest and background, and would like to volunteer to head up the effort. Contact your NCC representative or John if you have an interest in this CAPS leadership role.

National CAPS Meeting

The CAPS Management Team is trying to schedule a National CAPS Meeting for December 2014. John recently had a call with PPQ Deputy Administrator Osama El-Lissy and Jeff Grode to pitch the idea. John now has to submit a budget and participant list for review before he knows whether they will support the meeting. A major outcome of the call is that they did not say no right away. If he receives their support, he will then prepare and submit a full package for Department review.

John will meet with them again, hopefully before Thanksgiving, so John will know by the NCC meeting in January the direction we will be going. This will allow the NCC to put together an outline of an agenda at the NCC meeting. NCC members should start talking to their constituency about what they would like to get out of a National CAPS Meeting.

This meeting is on the non-conference list, which does make the approval process a bit easier for the Program. PDC is on board to facilitate the meeting. Invited participants will include the core constituencies: SPHDs, SPROs, PSSs, and SSCs. It also will include Program Managers affiliated with the CAPS Program and CPHST CAPS support, including those participating in the CAPS Fair. The meeting will be for 2 or 3 days. Potential locations include Albuquerque, New Mexico, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Jacksonville, Florida.

In order to get approval, we may need to have a joint meeting depending on what the DA wants to do. There may be a session(s) specifically for PPQ. This would not be ideal, but if it does occur, we have to make sure that the other participants have something to do during this time.

One comment that was suggested from Julie's constituency that could be addressed at either the NCC or National CAPS Meeting is how to develop a bundled survey that fits with the national guidelines and includes pests of state concern. A discussion topic should go over how bundling works because some states may not be aware of how to use this feature to their advantage.

Annual NCC Meeting

The PPQ travel requirements recently changed (again), so John is waiting to hear back from staff before he can proceed with the planning of the NCC meeting. The NCC did have one offer from Florida's Department of Plant Industries in Gainesville via the FL SPHD. Does anyone know of



any other offers or suggestions? We likely will need a cost comparison. The 2-day meeting likely will take place during the 3rd or 4th week in January.

The next NCC call will be on Thursday, November 14, 2013, at 11:00 am eastern time.