The Pest Detection Program supports APHIS’ goal of safeguarding U.S. agricultural and environmental resources by ensuring that new introductions of harmful plant pests and diseases are detected as soon as possible, before they have a chance to cause significant damage. The Agency and its State cooperators carry out surveys for high-risk pests through the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program. The mission of the Pest Detection/CAPS program is to provide a survey profile of plant pests in the United States deemed to be of regulatory significance to USDA-APHIS-PPQ, State Departments of Agriculture, tribal governments, and cooperators by confirming the presence or absence of plant pests impacting the domestic and international movement of plants and plant products; and establishing and maintaining a comprehensive network of cooperators and stakeholders to facilitate our mission and to safeguard our American plant resources. The Pest Detection Program also leverages funding through the Farm Bill Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program, Goal1 Survey, to accomplish its goals.

The National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Committee (NCC) meets annually to discuss the performance of the Pest Detection/CAPS program, and to discuss and update the CAPS National Survey Guidelines. The NCC also will discuss the implementation of any changes that may be needed to the Program and Guidelines based on issues raised during the previous survey year as a result of discussions with the various representatives’ constituency. The annual meeting provides a forum to obtain input on the direction of the CAPS Program from those in the field, is an avenue to inform the States of new initiatives and survey and data guidelines, and is a means to alert our state cooperators of any plant pest threats and PPQ policy direction that may be on the horizon. The annual meeting also provides a forum for discussions among PPQ and State personnel and the Farm Bill Program that may well lead to major changes in the CAPS and Farm Bill Program’s business models.

The meeting will be held at the offices of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Health Division, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 654-1211. <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/>. On February 3, we will hold the meeting at the CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostic Center, 3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95832, as the CDFA auditorium is not available.  On February 4, we will be at the CDFA Auditorium.

The meeting will start at 8:00 am and go until 5:00 pm each day, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 3 and 4, 2015. Suggested travel days are Monday, February 2 and Thursday, February 5, 2015. The local airport is [Sacramento International Airport (SMF)](http://www.sacramento.aero/smf/).

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn – Capitol Plaza, 300 J Street

Sacramento, CA 95814, at the federal per diem rate of $107. Rooms can be reserved by calling the Holiday Inn – Capitol Plaza at 1 (877) 834-3613 and referencing the group name “QFA.” The block will be held until January 5, 2014. As usual, folks will need to call in and make the reservation with their own credit card.

[Holiday Inn – Capitol Plaza](http://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=hi&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=saccp&_PMID=99801505&GPC=qfa), 300 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. The hotel is approximately 1.0 mile from the CDFA offices. Maps will be provided later.

The airport is Sacramento International Airport (SMF). <http://www.sacramento.aero/smf/>

The hotel is about 11 miles from the airport.  A taxi from the airport to the hotel will cost about $30.00. A one-way fare on Super Shuttle is $13.00. CDFA also can shuttle people to the hotel if arrangements are made in advance.

Please contact Lea Bradley-King from CDFA if you need a ride(s) or have any questions regarding the hotel.  Lea’s email is:  lea.bradley@cdfa.ca.gov  Phone #:  916-654-1211.

CDFA has offered to shuttle the group to the Plant Pest Diagnostic Center on Feb. 3. Meet in the hotel lobby no later than 7:30 am.

The hotel is within walking distance of the CDFA offices for the meeting on Feb. 4. CDFA has offered transportation if needed.

Travel expenses for state employees will be reimbursed through the National Plant Board. Contact Aurelio Posadas for information at (916) 709-3484, or via email at aureliop@elkgrove.net.

Lunch on Feb. 3 at the Plant Pest Diagnostic Center will be brought in. Please bring cash for lunch that day. On Feb. 4, lunch will be on your own in downtown Sarcramento.