



## National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

July 2, 2015

Minutes

---

### Participants

John Bowers	Joe Collins	Dale Anderson
Nichole Carrier	Julie Van Meter	Ian Foley
Terry Bourgoin	Brad Lewis	Dan Mackesy
Kristian Rondeau	Carol Motloch	Susan Schechter
Piera Siegert	Sherry Aultman	Eileen Luke

---

### People and Changes

Brian Kopper currently is on a detail to the CPHST Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Lab (PERAL) as Assistant Director. As his CPHST duties will take up a considerable amount of his time, Nichole Carrier, Pest Survey Specialist for CT, MA, and RI, will fill in for Brian for both CAPS and Survey Supplies. Both details will run until middle to late August. For any need that you contacted Brian in the past, please contact Nichole instead until Brian returns. Nichole's email is [Nichole.C.Carrier@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Nichole.C.Carrier@aphis.usda.gov). She also can be reached at 203-741-5645.

Kathy Handy retired as of June 30. Her former duties with the NAPIS database will be handled by John Crowe and John Bowers (for now), with more responsibility for communications with users and triage of issues by Susan Schechter and Cindy Music at Purdue. The plan is to hire behind Kathy. The position and announcement paperwork currently is being developed, and it will be announced as both merit promotion for current federal employees and for all U.S. citizens. The announcement will be posted on USAJobs and have different numbers dependent on the two modes of hiring. We will let everyone know when the announcements are posted. This is a great opportunity to work with a fantastic team!

Umesh Kodira, Director of Pest Detection and Emergency Programs, has accepted a new position with CPHST PERAL in Raleigh, and will be transitioning to there in September. As Umesh is on a long vacation to India and will be busy relocating to Raleigh upon his return, Valerie DeFeo is acting in the capacity of PDEP Director into at least September. Valerie's email is [Valerie.DeFeo@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Valerie.DeFeo@aphis.usda.gov), and can be reached at 301-851-2086. Another person likely will be asked to follow Valerie. The position will be advertised, but the time frame is unknown at this time. Optimally, PPQ would like to have the position filled by the end of the year.

---

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.



### **Purdue Visit**

John and Brian visited the folks at Purdue last week to check in on progress. For the most part discussions centered around the Survey Summary Form and new ways of reporting on Program performance. As discussed on the March 5 NCC call, and in the [minutes](#) to that call, the Survey Summary Form will be updated to include fields for hosts, environments, and/or habitats, as well as an attempt to standardized survey names. The consequence is that the opening of the CAPS Survey Summary Form will be delayed a little this year. The tentative date is August 3.

Reporting functions as detailed in the [minutes to the May 14 call](#) also were discussed, and Susan presented a way to present program performance measure visually. We think that the CAPS community will like this feature. A formal changed request process also was discussed to enable changes to the Survey Summary Form to be reflected in the Accountability Report, My Surveys in NAPIS, and in the reporting features being developed. The new Change Request process, a new Accountability Report (with the new data fields for 2015), and Reporting features will be rolled out at the National CAPS Meeting in December.

### **National CAPS Meeting**

Within the last week, the Program has been given the go ahead to formally submit the documents to have the meeting officially approved. As of this writing, the meeting has not been approved, but the documents have been submitted. The PPQ Deputy Administrator had questions that we needed to answer that resulted in making some modifications in the documents, thus the drawn out process. Isn't bureaucracy beautiful! We will let you know as soon as we hear something.

We want to thank everyone who responded to the head count survey that Purdue sent out a couple of weeks ago. The response was good, and it helps with planning.

### **Maine State CAPS Committee Update**

Terry Bourgoïn had just come from his state CAPS Committee meeting and presented the discussion that occurred. The main discussion centered around 2016 survey planning, and the committee debated the strategy for CAPS and Farm Bill funding of surveys. In 2015 Maine did a Fruit Crops Pest Survey through CAPS, but will submit this for Farm Bill funding in 2016 to be better aligned with CAPS and Farm Bill guidance. In its place, Maine likely will submit work plans for an EWB/BB survey for CAPS. All states should be having these types of discussions.

A question also was raised on the propriety of asking for funding of tablets for survey. The Program's position is that equipment needed by the SSC may be approved, but that the Program cannot, and should not, support equipment purchases for others in the Department. The Program simply does not have the funding to do this, and allowing it for one state sets a precedent we do not want to set. From Page 4 of the 2016 Guidelines:

Care also should be taken that equipment requests are needed in the current year and are not being carried over from a previous agreement. Equipment requests should support the



SSC only, and SSCs are encouraged to provide PPQ an IT inventory to ensure needs are being met, equipment is replaced in a reasonable time frame, and equipment procured to support CAPS activities remains available to the program. Hand-held or mobile devices for data management will not be financially supported.

### **Eradication Records in NAPIS**

When running a query in NAPIS to answer questions about a particular pest, it came to light that there are pest records in NAPIS labeled 'Under Eradication' with no further follow up; there are no 'Not Found' or 'Eradicated' records in years after the 'Under Eradication' record was entered. This invites the question, "What happened in these instances?" There is no way of knowing if follow up surveys were completed (one would think that there should have been) or the final disposition of the pest in the state. Was it eradicated? The data does not tell us and it leaves a large question just hanging. Please review your data, and if there are under eradication records with no follow up, and you have the data or the final disposition for that pest, please enter the data in NAPIS. If there was no follow up and you need to change the data entry to 'Found' or something else that is appropriate, please send Susan (cc John B. and John C.) your request with a justification. Let's get this cleaned up before a trading partner starts asking uncomfortable questions.

### **Blueberry Maggot Data**

Canada is rewriting some of their Directives, and one focuses on the regulation of blueberry maggot. Canada wants to prevent the introduction of blueberry maggot into those Provinces where it is not present, and will regulate states where it is established. For the most part this pest is present in the eastern U.S., but there are questions whether it is present in some other states. Those states that Canada identified have been contacted and will conduct surveys as part of their 2016 Farm Bill surveys. If a state has blueberry maggot survey data that they have not entered into NAPIS, especially negative data, then it will be to that state's benefit to enter the data and possibly avoid being regulated by Canada for this pest. Let John B. know if you plan to enter this data, or plan to conduct a survey for this pest, so that the information can be forwarded to PPQ's trade director for Canada.

### **Farm Bill**

Please get your 2015 work plans submitted ASAP. The deadline was July 1. Also remember to fill out the 2015 Farm Bill Survey Summary Form for all surveys funded under Goal 1 Survey. There has been some problems getting this done due to different entities in the state conducting or being a part of a survey, and the work flow of the Survey Summary Form. Discussions are occurring to find possible solutions. However, for 2015 the SSC should coordinate with all entities in the state to get the information entered into the Survey Summary Form. Work plans will not be reviewed until all information for a state is complete. We are looking at ways to submit the Form and get work plans reviewed without waiting for the other tardy party. A solution should be implemented for 2016.



The open period for suggestions for 2016 Farm Bill funding will be opening in August and will run for 6 weeks. The communications plan is being developed, websites updated, and the roll out will be announced via the Stakeholder Registry as in past years. Metastorm will be used again to accept suggestions. Note that the guidance for Goal 1 Survey has been changed and updated from previous years and now closely matches the National Pest Surveillance Guidelines for CAPS.

**The next NCC call will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2015, at 1:00 pm eastern time** (due to the Plant Board Meeting the prior week).

Please forward to your NCC representative any agenda topics for discussion on the next NCC call.