



National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

April 8, 2016

Minutes

Participants

John Bowers	Yolisa Ishibashi	Dan Mackesy
Brian Kopper	Ruth Welliver	Cindy Music
Piera Siegert	Dale Anderson	
Tyson Emery	Ian Foley	
Julie Van Meter	Lisa Jackson	

2016 Cooperative Agreements

The budget impasse in PPQ has been resolved and agreements are starting to go out the door. Funding will be at the full 2016 level (no decreases). The Agreements staff also is dealing with Farm Bill agreements and everyone needs to be patient while they work through the pile. If you have any immediate needs, please contact Brian, not the Agreements staff directly.

2017 Survey Guidelines

There are 2 weeks remaining until the 2017 National Survey Guidelines are published. Please review the [2016 Guidelines](#) on the Guidelines or [Resources](#) pages of the CAPS R&C site, and send any updates, edits, comments, and/or suggestions to John and Brian. Especially, check any links and ensure that they are still good. Monday, April 18 is the target date for having all documents updated and complete so that everything is ready for publication on Friday, April 22 (Earth Day). The CPHST team is incorporating a lot of new information for 2017, and will have drafts for the PDMT to review shortly. Some previews of the 2017 Guidelines:

Budget. The FY17 President's Budget was published in February and did not specifically mention Pest Detection. This is interpreted as no change from FY16, and we expect no increases or decreases (although Congress could change that). Funding for agreements likely will be flat, therefore, the guidance will be as in previous years; plan for 2017 at the same funding level you received in 2016.

ezFedGrants. ezFedGrants (previously called Grantor) will be the new system for cooperative agreement management. It is scheduled to go live for all of APHIS on October 1. However, as work and financial plans are due mid-August before ezFedGrants is implemented, we will use the same submission process as in previous years. States will submit work and financial plans to the SPHD, who will upload them to the FO SharePoint site. Remember also to fill in the Survey Summary Form on the CAPS R&C site. If anything needs to be uploaded into ezFedGrants after October 1, we will work to do that internally. As of now, we know very little of how this is

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.



going to play out. As we find out things, we will certainly let you know. Be sure you get Level 2 eAuthentication access well before it is needed. This will be required to access the system.

Data Management. Data management guidance for 2017 will reference only NAPIS. Language in the cooperative agreement will reference ‘a PPQ-approved’ database. This allows some flexibility as in the case with honey bee data this year where the program switched from IPHIS data entry to NAPIS in mid-season. All CAPS and Farm Bill Goal 1 National Priority survey data is to be entered into NAPIS as in previous years.

Work and Financial Plans. Current guidance makes available the option to combine two or more individual survey work plans into one agreement; the agreement will contain discreet survey work plans. Infrastructure is a separate agreement. The new proposal is to meld two or more survey work plans into a single work plan. Brian is working with a sub-group to provide an example of what that may look like and will be included as an example when the 2017 Guidelines are published. Surveys, target pests, and funding for each discreet survey still will need to be broken out for entry into the Survey Summary Form. This is necessary for CAPS program reporting purposes.

A question was raised at the NCC meeting in Phoenix as to whether or not combining surveys should be mandatory. The answers received ranged from strongly yes to strongly no. States have different financial, tracking, and internal reporting requirements, not to mention audit requirements, so the flexibility in how work and financial plans and agreements are structured needs to be offered.

OPEP Pest List. The new prioritized pest list, named the Objective Prioritization of Exotic Pests (OPEP) is set to be rolled out with the 2017 Guidelines. The AHP process no longer will be used to create a prioritized pest list.

CAPS Recognition

Nominations for 2016 CAPS Recognition have been received. A subset of the NCC will review the nominations and decide on who will be recognized for work completed in 2015. The announcement on awardees will be made in early May.

Due to the absence of a National CAPS Meeting, the 2015 CAPS Recognition awards will be presented at the Southern Plant Board meeting the week of April 18, as both Jarrod and Julieta are from Southern Plant Board states.

PPQ PartnerNet SharePoint Site

PPQ has instituted a SharePoint site, called PartnerNet, which can be shared with state cooperators via eAuthentication. A page for the NCC to share documents was created. Ideally, this site would be a good resource for the NCC to use, especially when updating the Guidelines documents. Everyone could work together instead of sending around multiple versions with



various edits and comments. However, there are issues with the functionality of the site and the limited ability to actually work on documents on the site. It appears that, unless changes are made, this site will not be as efficient and effective for our work as we would like it to. We will take a wait-and-see approach before we try and use it again.

Sorghum Survey

There has been some interest to have CPHST develop a Sorghum Survey. While states can develop a Bundled Survey around sorghum, it currently is not in any existing manual. The NCC discussed whether sorghum belongs in a manual. Three options were considered.

- Should Sorghum be a new stand-alone manual?
- Should Sorghum be added to the Corn manual and call it the 'Corn and Sorghum' manual? The rationale is that these two crops share a number of pests.
- Should Sorghum be added to the Small Grains manual?

The consensus was that sorghum pests should be covered in other manuals. Lisa reviewed the pests and saw a lot of pest overlap between corn and sorghum, even more so than with small grains. Dale reviewed the pests as well and saw a similar overlap. This then begs the question as whether commodity surveys should be grouped by botanical or horticultural relationships, or by the commonality of pests. Sorghum, corn, and the small grain crops all can be referred to as cereals, and some states have conducted surveys in sorghum under the Small Grains survey. Horticulturally, sorghum may be more like the Small Grains crops, but as a host to pests, may be more aligned with corn. What is the best way to proceed? Let us know your thoughts.

Julie suggested the possible addition of the sorghum ergot fungal pathogen as a new survey target. Approximately 9-10 states have shown interest in a sorghum survey. Lisa will send out an informal suggested pest list for sorghum in May/June for possible bundled sorghum surveys. The addition of sorghum and target pests as a new manual or an addition to an existing manual with datasheets will not occur until the 2018 Guidelines at the earliest.

New Domestic Diagnostics Coordinator

Steve Bullington has been selected as the new Domestic Diagnostics Coordinator. This position previously was held by Joel Floyd. All correspondence previously directed to Joel should now be directed to Steve. His contact information is: stephen.w.bullington@aphis.usda.gov and 301-851-2153.

The next NCC call will be held on Thursday, May, 5, 2016, at 1:00 pm eastern time.

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