



National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

May 5, 2017

Minutes

Participants

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|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| John Bowers | Megan Abraham | Heather Moylett |
| Lisa Jackson | Tiffany Mauro | Dan Mackesy |
| Terry Bourgoin | Emilie Inoue | Feridoon Mehdizadegan |
| Greg Rentschler | Dale Anderson | Steve Bullington |
| Piera Siergert | Ian Foley | Eileen Luke |

CPHST CAPS Support

Dan Mackesy and Heather Moylett will serve as the Acting Lead Scientists for the CPHST Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Support Team from April 30th to August 19th. The CPHST CAPS Support Team provides the scientific foundation for the CAPS program, developing products/tools for early-detection survey, and provides day-to-day support for the CAPS program. Dan Mackesy (vice –Melinda Sullivan) will support pathogens, nematodes, and weeds. Heather Moylett (vice- Lisa Jackson) will support arthropods and mollusks. See their brief bios on the home page of the [CAPS Resource & Collaboration](#) website.

Contact Dan at (970) 490-4494 and daniel.z.mackesy@aphis.usda.gov.

Contact Heather at (919) 855-7428 and heather.moylett@aphis.usda.gov.

2017 Budget

The House and Senate have passed an omnibus spending bill to fund the government for FY17 at the FY16 level. The Pest Detection line receives the same amount of funding as in FY16. Agreements will be amended to include the remaining funding. Contact your ADODR or agreements specialist if you have any questions concerning process and/or timing. We realize that although the signed agreement may cover the entire work period, some states will not be able to conduct the work until they have the ‘money in the bank’ so to speak or the legalities of being able to request reimbursement for the time since the last CR. Two-way communication is key to making sure that states with immediate need are identified so that survey work can proceed on time.

CAPS Recognition

A sub-committee of the NCC reviewed nominations for 2017 CAPS Recognition, and selected Chris Rallis (SSC, NH) and Susan Schechter (Purdue, retired) as this year’s awardees. The formal announcement with expanded recognition was sent to the CAPS community on Friday, May 5.

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.



2018 Guidelines

The [2018 National Pest Surveillance Guidelines](#) were published on Monday, April 24, 2017, and the announcement sent to the NCC for distribution. The [Approved Methodology for Pest Surveillance](#) (AMPS) also has been updated for 2018 to reflect changes to the pest lists, and major hosts have been added for each Priority Pest. These Guidelines pertain to surveys conducted by PPQ and state cooperators funded through the Pest Detection line item, and by extension, National Priority Surveys funded by Farm Bill Goal 1 Survey. Questions regarding the 2018 Guidelines can be directed to your NCC representative, or directly to [John](#) and [Lisa](#).

Work Plan Template

A table was added to the Approach section of the [Survey Work Plan Template](#) to capture target pests and methodology. This table will facilitate review of the work plans, especially for those that combine surveys into one work plan. John will talk with Purdue about the possibility of downloading a version of the Survey Summary Form that can be copied and pasted into the work plan (provided that the SSF is completed first). This option may facilitate the extra requirement for those whose internal processes can make use of it.

The infrastructure and survey work plan template were reformatted for clarity, and more text considered explanatory was changed to a red color. Text in red can be deleted when finalizing the work plan. The result will leave a cleaner work plan that also will facilitate review.

2017 Farm Bill Work Plans

A message will be forthcoming from the Farm Bill Management Team that will push the deadline for all work plans from all goals to be submitted by June 9, 2017. There is a large amount of work plans not yet submitted. These need to be in so that the agreements staff can process them in a timely matter. With the implementation of ezFedGrants processing has slowed down as everyone learns the new system. Waiting until late in the fiscal year will jeopardize your funding as agreements may not be able to be processed, i.e., get yours in now.

2018 Farm Bill Goal 1 Survey

A new suggestion format is proposed as a pilot for Goal 1 Survey for the 2018 suggestion process. A survey and target pest table and a short series of questions to gauge the survey approach was discussed. The basic idea is to reduce the suggestion format, the amount of text in the suggestion, and streamline the review process. The minimalist suggestion approach is warranted because of the large number of suggestions to review, and often those submitting the suggestions write more than what is really needed for the review team. This pilot also will help answer some of the lingering questions from the NCC meeting in McAllen where we discussed the possibility of merging CAPS and Farm Bill Goal 1 Survey processes. John will develop a paper to explain the changes and the reasons why the changes are necessary. Farm Bill help session webinars are scheduled to start in early July, and this needs to be part of that communication.



CAPS Webinars

The next CAPS Webinar will be held in late May. The topic will be the assessment and prioritization of CAPS pests. The new Objective Prioritization of Exotic Pests (OPEP) pest prioritization model will be featured. No date has been set yet as we have some logistics to attend to, but we will notify the CAPS community well in advance. We would like to hear what the CAPS community would like in terms of schedule and topics.

CAPS and Farm Bill Accountability Report

The [Accountability Report](#) on the CAPS R&C website matches information from the Survey Summary Form with data entry in NAPIS. Data entry in NAPIS is a requirement of the cooperative agreement. Three new fields were added to NAPIS data entry (Funding Year, Funding Source, and Survey Name) so that pest data in NAPIS would better match with a particular survey and calendar year agreement. As of this date, 28 states have entered all of their 2016 CAPS data into NAPIS, 19 states have partial CAPS data in NAPIS, and 5 states have no CAPS data in NAPIS. The situation is much worse for 2016 Farm Bill data, although that may be due to the timing of the 2016 award.

The Pest Detection Team has discussed the situation, and have put on the table for further discussion with ADODRs the idea that 2018 work plans will not be reviewed until a state fulfills the requirement of data entry in NAPIS for 2016 agreements, or submits a serious justification of why data entry has not occurred. By extension, this also will hold for 2018 Farm Bill survey work plans. To be on the safe side, states are advised to review the Accountability Report for both CAPS and Farm Bill, and rectify any deficiency with data entry. If the information is not correct, either enter a [Survey Summary Form Change Request](#) with justification, or contact [Cindy Music](#) at Purdue for facilitation if you are having troubles with NAPIS data entry. These steps are necessary to maintain Program accountability for the use of federal funds.

CAPS Educational Modules

The steering committee will be called into action very soon. There is still time if you would like to participate. Let [John](#) and [Lisa](#) know as soon as possible.

Survey Supplies

Please contact [Lisa](#) if you need to place an order or to find out the status of an order.

The next NCC call will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2017, at 1:00 pm eastern time.

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