



Annual National CAPS Committee Meeting
January 29-30, 2020
Office of the Illinois State Plant Health Director
Des Plaines, Illinois
Meeting Justification



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 program uses a multi-pronged strategy to accomplish its mission, involving a structured, transparent assessment process to identify pest threats, the development of scientifically sound pest diagnostics and survey protocols, conducting the actual pest surveys, and the timely reporting of pest survey results through the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS). These efforts are accomplished by involving stakeholders and the scientific community, and leveraging efforts by other Agencies in USDA, government entities, State departments of agriculture, universities, and industry partners. The Agency and its State cooperators carry out surveys for high-risk pests through the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program, which is funded through the Pest Detection line item. The Pest Detection Program also leverages funding through the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program (PPA 7721), Goal 1 Survey, to accomplish its goals.

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 and our 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 National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Committee (NCC) meets annually to review and discuss the performance of the Pest Detection/CAPS program, and to discuss and update the National Pest Surveillance 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.

A major portion of the meeting will focus on updating and restructuring the Priority Pest List. Currently, the Priority Pest List consists of the combination of the Pests of Economic & Environmental Concern List and the various Commodity Pest Lists. The proposal for the NCC to consider going forward is to have only one list based on results of the Objective Prioritization of Exotic Pests (OPEP) model. With the removal of the various commodity lists, a mainstay of the Program for the last 10 years, the NCC will consider a comprehensive host matrix for all Priority Pests. The goal is to increase flexibility in designing surveys to cover a wider range of commodity surveys. The NCC will discuss how this major change will affect survey planning, and if additional information is needed to facilitate survey planning.



The NCC also will need to address a wide variety of other Program-related issues, including further development of program management tools for tracking surveys and projects funded by Pest Detection, and developing real-time reporting of program performance measures for CAPS, PPQ, and PPA 7721 Goal 1 Surveys. Identification needs and capacity continues to be an issue, and the NCC will need to discuss State concerns, PPQ's direction, and a path forward. With the recent revision of ISPM 8, Determination of Pest Status, the NCC also will need to discuss the possibility of additional data entry fields in NAPIS to align with ISPM 8.

For 2020, a focused pre-meeting will be held the day before the regular NCC meeting. The pre-meeting will focus on the details of the development of an online work plan, a Survey Builder tool for planning surveys, and a restructuring of the Approved Methods for Pest Surveillance pages on the CAPS Resource & Collaboration website. Pest Survey Specialists and State Survey Coordinators on the NCC, PPQ Science & Technology CAPS Support, and Purdue CAPSIS personnel will participate. Those participating in the pre-meeting also regularly participate in the NCC meeting. No additional PPQ or State personnel will be traveling just for the pre-meeting.

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 that may lead to major changes in the CAPS and PPA 7721 Program's business models. The results of this meeting will have important and wide implications. This meeting will develop recommendations, prioritize, and institute action items with milestones and deadlines. Discussion of these items will begin before the meeting, and relevant material distributed in advance, but a 2-day, face-to-face meeting with discussion is needed to prioritize, assign responsibilities, and continue to move the CAPS/Pest Detection Program forward. A draft agenda is attached.

The meeting will be held at the Offices of the Illinois State Plant Health Director in Des Plaines, Illinois, at no charge to APHIS for meeting space. Meeting dates are January 29-30, 2020, with travel on January 28 and 31, 2020. Pre-meeting participants will travel on January 27, and meet on January 28. There will be 21 attendees, 11 of which are APHIS employees. The total estimated travel cost for the APHIS attendees is \$12,205.50 (excluding salary calculations), with an average of \$1,109.59 per person. A cost estimate worksheet with a list of travelers is attached. There will be eight non-APHIS, state department of agriculture attendees with total estimated travel cost of \$9,816.10. These non-APHIS attendees will be reimbursed through the PPQ-National Plant Board (NPB) Safeguarding Agreement as in past years. Additionally, two representatives from Purdue University will attend the meeting, but will travel on separate funds and not be reimbursed through the NPB.

The National CAPS Committee (NCC) consists of both state and federal personnel from different parts of the country working together to develop, improve, and guide the CAPS



Program. When planning this annual meeting, we look for locations that highlight the safeguarding continuum in order to give the members a broader perspective. In past years the meeting has been held at the PPQ offices in Raleigh, the Plant Inspection Station in Miami, the Texas SPHD office in Austin, the Florida DPI offices in Gainesville, the CDFA offices in Sacramento, the Arizona SPHD office in Phoenix, the PPQ offices in McAllen, Texas, the National Detector Dog Training Center in Newnan, Georgia, and last year at the Customs & Border Protection offices in Portland, Oregon. This year the meeting follows the theme from last two years, and will include a tour of Terminal 5 at O'Hare International Airport where CBP agricultural personnel will guide the group through the baggage inspection process and the use of canines in the inspection process.