



NCC Conference Call - Thursday, September 4, 2008

Minutes

Participant

John Bowers	Kennoth Carnes
Brian Kopper	Tom Sandoe
Kristian Rondeau	Joel Floyd
Benny Graves	Susan Schechter
Vicki Smith	Eileen Luke
Jeff Knight	Richard Zink
Adam Silagyi	Melinda Sullivan
Erin Stiers	Lisa Jackson
Kathy Handy	Todd Dutton
	Bob Rabaglia

- Pest Detection and Farm Bill update
The general Business Plan was presented at the National Plant Board meeting in August. The white paper can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pest_detection/downloads/farmbill-whitepaper.pdf. The specific Business Plan is going through USDA channels for approval before being released for comment. A status report will be forthcoming soon.
- National CAPS Meeting
The Under Secretary requested a meeting agenda before the Decision Memo would be reviewed. A draft agenda was prepared and submitted 9/4/08. This agenda is a living document and can be changed. A copy was sent to the NCC for distribution, and as an aid for travel approval. Until approved by the Department, we cannot officially proceed with registration, etc.
Note: Registration payment will be due upon arrival at the meeting (tentatively set at \$150.00), and must be in cash (no checks, credit cards, etc. can be accepted). Please plan accordingly.
- Work Plans for 2009
Work plans are being reviewed in the Regions, and comments sent to SPHDs shortly. The majority of submitted work plans did not contain appendix J-3, the Excel spreadsheet. This is required. The information is necessary for management of the CAPS program, answering questions about CAPS surveys from the Administration and Congress, and improving our tracking of surveys for performance measures. Those States that have not submitted 2009 work plans need to submit a work plan soon if they want to be considered for funding. Please communicate with Brian and Kristian in the Regional offices if you need more time.
- Performance Measures
Pest Detection has been selected, along with our colleagues in Veterinary Services, to be part



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of the USDA performance measures that are reported to OMB, and ultimately, the public. This will be our “value added” measure. Basically, this measures the cost of survey against the cost if a pest gets established and causes economic damage, and focuses on the value of the crop or commodity protected. Currently this is focused on individual pests, but we have the opportunity change it to reflect our commodity-based surveys before it is submitted. More detail will be presented at the CAPS meeting in December. Program performance measures are here to stay, we need to take them seriously, and they will undoubtedly require us to ask more information from the States.

- **CAPS Messaging / Outreach**
Conversations have been started within PPQ on how best to present the CAPS program to the States and industry; what messages can we provide nationally that those in the field can use to communicate the importance of the Pest Detection and CAPS programs. During our last call it was suggested the we invite 2-3 field people to join our conversation to get their perspective, and what messages they need and feel most useful. If you would like to participate in these discussions, or know someone who could make a contribution, please forward yours or their names to John Bowers. Looking for various participants including SSCs & SPROs; specifically, someone experienced with CAPS and outreach activities.
- **PSS training announced**
Emails announcing the training were forwarded to the NCC. As last year, SSCs will be invited to participate. The deadline for registering has been extended. If you are, or of know someone who is, interested in attending, please register now. Several changes have been made from last year that should benefit all attending. Contact Dawn Wade at dawn.a.wade@aphis.usda.gov for more information.
- **New AHP Model**
Kim Schwartzburg is asking for volunteers to evaluate the criteria and weights for the new AHP Prioritized List model in order for some decisions to be made. I believe this would entail answering a set of questions. Contact Kim for more information. Kim sat in on the ER Monthly PSS call to discuss and will also participate on the next WR Monthly PSS call.
- **CAPS Restricted Web Site**
We proposed taking the password protection off the CAPS web site. The consensus on the call is that the password protection should be removed. So be it!
- **SharePoint Site**
A SharePoint site will be set up and access given to those on the NCC call so that documents can be shared and edited, online discussions can be had, and other CAPS business can be conducted in between conference calls. If this works well with the NCC, the site can be expanded to include other aspects of doing business within the CAPS community. Stay tuned for more details.



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- Next NCC call will be on Thursday, October 2, at 11:00 eastern time



National CAPS Conference
Phoenix, Arizona December 2-4, 2008

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.