



NCC Conference Call - Thursday, October 2, 2008

Minutes

Participants

John Bowers	Adam Silagyi
Brian Kopper	Erin Stiers
Kristian Rondeau	Kennoth Carnes
Bruce Shambaugh	Tom Sandoe
Steve Knight	Kathy Handy
Benny Graves	Susan Schechter
Jeff Knight	Eileen Luke
Bob Dahl	Melinda Sullivan
Kim Schwartzburg	Lisa Jackson
Dan Borchert	

- Pest Detection and Farm Bill update
The business plan addressing Section 10201 of the 2008 Farm Bill is at the Department level, and PPQ is actively engaged with the Department in discussions regarding various aspects of the plan. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available. An evening session at the National CAPS Conference is tentatively planned to discuss the Farm Bill (pending approval of the meeting, see below).
- National CAPS Conference
The Decision Memo has been signed by the USDA Under Secretary, and is now in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer for final approval. They have asked several questions, so I take that as a good sign that the meeting will be approved. When approval is finalized, things will happen rather fast. There now will be a much smaller window for meeting registration and hotel reservations, so these will need to be completed fairly soon after the announcement is made. The meeting registration database and the hotel reservation web site are ready to go. Links will be included with the meeting announcement. The announcement will be distributed through the NCC. Stay tuned.

A letter was requested providing justification for attending the meeting in order to have travel approved. A letter will be written and kept at the Regional offices. Contact Brian or Kristian after October 16 if you need this letter for travel purposes.

Note: Registration payment will be due upon arrival at the meeting (\$150.00), and must be in cash (no checks, credit cards, etc. can be accepted). Please plan accordingly.

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.



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- Traps & Lures Database

The traps and lures database for ordering supplies will close on or about October 17. Please get your orders in now for 2009. Once the database closes, information will be collated by State, and the SPHDs will be asked to review the orders for their State for correctness and appropriateness. The Regions will then review the requests before sending to Mission for procurement. Once again, please do not include trap and lure supplies in your CAPS work plan. PPQ will purchase and distribute supplies to the States as requested when placing the order.

- CAPS Outreach / Volunteerism

A small meeting was held October 7 in Riverdale with a cooperator to discuss the development of a plan to engage volunteers in the States to participate in Pest Detection and CAPS surveys. An NCC conference call will be held within the next couple of weeks to discuss these plans and anticipated focus and direction of a volunteer program.

- New AHP Model

from Kim Schwartzburg:

I'm looking for NCC members (or feel free to recruit colleagues from within the CAPS community) to participate in a group decision for the AHP pest prioritization project. The value judgments made during the call will be used to assign weights to the criteria in the CAPS analytic hierarchy process model. These weights will have a large effect on how the pests are ranked.

The call was held as planned on October 15. The results will be reported out during our next NCC conference call.

Questions came up regarding the removal of *Phytophthora quercina* from the 2010 AHP Prioritized list, with a few questioning why it was removed (the pathogen is ranked 22nd on the 2009 AHP list). A recent report in *Plant Disease* stated that it was detected in the U.S., thus it no longer fit the criteria of being included in the model. However, this first detection in the U.S. was not confirmed by APHIS-PPQ. NIS is attempting to obtain an isolate and confirm its identity. If confirmed, NPAG will be brought into the discussion, and will provide recommendations. *Phytophthora quercina* is on the list of the Oak Commodity Survey, and will remain on this list for now, whether or not it is listed on the AHP list.

- Commodity Survey documents

When discussing the cooperation between U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to conduct a Pine Commodity survey, it was mentioned that USFS did not know that the Pine documents existed before WSDA brought it to their attention. Clearly, we need to do a better job of promoting our surveys and products. Ken Carnes requested a set of Commodity-based Survey documents for display at an outreach

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event in New York. Melinda Sullivan indicated that she has about 20 bound copies of the documents, and will send a set to Ken. These bound copies are available to those who need to display and promote the Commodity-based Surveys. Contact Melinda in Ft. Collins if you would like a set. Since we only have a limited number of copies right now, we may need to share sets if there is the need. Please keep them in good condition, and return them promptly when asked.

The updated Soybean Survey Reference document is available on the CAPS web site. There will not be a formal review of the update, but comments and corrections are always welcome. Direct comments to Melinda Sullivan. Items updated in the new version include: soybean acreage map was updated; risk maps updated where available; endemic pests removed (if commonly confused with an exotic pest, then that information was added to exotic pest data sheet); pests removed that were not on the FY09 AHP list, with the exception of those included in the soybean commodity-based survey document; all formatting was updated to be similar to other manuals; pest information was updated if new information was available; and size significantly reduced (from over 400 to around 200 pages).

- CAPS Restricted Web Site
The CAPS site is now password-free.
- Next NCC call will be on Thursday, November 6, at 11:00 eastern time

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National CAPS Conference

Phoenix, Arizona December 3 -4, 2008

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