



NCC Conference Calls

Wednesday, March 25, 2009  
Monday, March 30, 2009  
April 2, 2009

## Minutes

### Participants

John Bowers	Ken Carnes
Brian Kopper	Mike Wallace
Kristian Rondeau	Kathy Handy
Bruce Shambaugh	Melinda Sullivan
Jason Watkins	Susan Schechter
Dan Hilburn	Eileen Luke
Robert Dahl	Lisa Jackson
Vicki Smith	Christina Jewett
Benny Graves	Todd Dutton
Erin Stiers	Tim Bergstrom
Adam Silagyi	

Over the past week, the NCC has held three conference calls (and many emails) devoted solely to discussion of the 2010 National Survey Guidelines. Based on discussions and input from the CAPS Conference in Phoenix and throughout last year, several changes will be made in the Guidelines to address both the focus of the survey efforts and increased flexibility in survey options. Some of the changes for the 2010 Guidelines will be:

Priority Surveys replace Surveys of National Concern with expanded focus and increased flexibility. These surveys may consist of 1) Designed Surveys, which are the traditional commodity-based and similarly-formatted surveys prepared by CPHST as presented in past years, and/or 2) unique Bundled Surveys as determined by the States. The intent of the Bundled Surveys is to give the States the flexibility to design their own surveys, within certain parameters. A State may create a bundled survey that is based on a common factor, such as site, habitat, environment, business, etc., that makes biological, environmental, and/or economic sense in that State.

The Priority Pest List replaces the Pests of National Concern List, and is composed of two sections: The Commodity Pest List and the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) Prioritized Pest List. The pests on this list are APHIS' high priority pests for survey. The AHP list is brought to the front and utilized in the Program instead of being used as a guide. Priority Surveys target pests on this list. (The Guidelines will have detailed information).

State Discretionary Surveys replace Surveys of State Regulatory Concern in name only.

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**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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The Additional Pest of Regulatory Concern List remains, and is used as a radar screen of pests that may merit inclusion on the Priority Pest List in future years.

A pathway approach to planning and conducting surveys is strongly encouraged. This type of targeted detection survey or risk-based survey enhances the ability of the CAPS Program to identify and target high risk areas, zones, locations, and sites that have the highest potential for exotic pest introductions, and to successfully provide early detection of these pests.

The funding ratio remains unchanged, 75% Priority Surveys:25% State Discretionary Surveys. With the change in the Survey Guidelines to include Bundled Surveys, the challenge to the States is to be creative in the planning of surveys and target pests. Pests of State concern should be incorporated whenever possible into the Priority Surveys. It is hoped that the States will use up to 100% of their survey dollars with Priority Surveys in which pests of State concern have been included. If this challenge to the States is successful, and can be continued into the future, then the present funding ratio will cease to be a factor.

Other subtle and minor changes also have been incorporated based on recommendations and suggestions received. The NCC believes that the 2010 Guidelines are responsive to State concerns, and the program is moving in the right direction. The NCC remains committed to offering quality survey guidelines that address the needs of both APHIS and our State collaborators.

The target date for publishing the complete 2010 Guidelines has been pushed back to April 10, 2009. The Guidelines, complete with appendices, will be posted on the CAPS web site, and an email sent via the CAPS listserv announcing the fact that the Guidelines have been posted.

**The next NCC call will be on Thursday, May 7, at 11:00 eastern time.**

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