NCC Conference Call October 1, 2009

Minutes

Participants

John Bowers	Ken Carnes
Brian Kopper	Mike Wallace
Kristian Rondeau	Kathy Handy
Dan Fieselmann	Susan Schechter
Robert Dahl	Lisa Jackson
Vicki Smith	Joel Floyd
Adam Silagyi	Christina Jewett
Erin Stiers	Charles Pierre

Follow-up from Last Month's NCC Call

Questions were asked in the minutes to last month's NCC call (dated September 4, 2009), and the NCC spent some time discussing the various aspects of these topics. See the minutes to last month's call for background.

Work Plan Submission Update

Most felt the 'new' work plan submission process in the Western Region is a good step in the right direction. An added option of showing when a work plan was 'approved' (in addition to 'accepted') was suggested. Work plans are 'accepted' in theory; PPQ and the state agree and all revisions are complete. Work plans cannot be 'approved' until the Regions receive a funding allocation from the budget process, and the amount of funding for the various line items is known. This is when reality sets in, and the Regions decide which projects to fund and where the funds are coming from.

Survey Guidelines
- Visual Surveys

Adam Silagyi and Lisa Jackson received lots of comments and suggestions. Within the next month or two they will draft species-specific pilot visual survey projects concentrating on *Agrilus biguttatus*, oak splendor beetle, and *Platypus quercivorus*, oak ambrosia beetle. The pilot project will incorporate a couple of different options including some general trap and lure/wood bolt combinations to see what happens. Negative data only will be reported for the visual protocol. All those that contributed suggestions also stressed the importance of an outreach component.

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.

- Appendices M

Lisa Jackson and Melinda Sullivan have completed tables for pests and pathogens on the Priority Pest List detailing survey protocols and diagnostic methods. These tables have been sent out for expert review. Only a few comments have been returned to date. Dan Fieselmann will follow up with those in CPHST asked to review the tables.

- Data Entry Guidelines

Kristian Rondeau shared the comments received regarding the three options presented by his working group. After discussion, the NCC decided by consensus that option 3 was the best solution. The language in the CAPS Survey Guidelines, the edit rules in NAPIS, and the maps on Pest Tracker will be updated to reflect this direction for date entry. The operational date is projected to be January 1, 2010. The option reads as follows:

> #3 Combine Unlock edit Access & New Pest Status Option:
>
> Edit access would only be available for active surveys. All historical survey data would remain locked and require approval from National Survey Coordinator to make edits. All subsequent entries would replace the existing file for that data set. The Observation Number will remain the same and the Observation Date, Observation Duration and other relevant data would be updated. In the map view a new Pest Status of "Survey in Progress" should be created. An additional color would depict which counties have active survey. Verbiage can be added to support new "Survey in Progress" map view AND intended message which states, "survey data is negative to date". Any positive entry would supersede "Survey in Progress" status by default. When survey activities are concluded for the year a final YTD record would replace and supersede "Survey in Progress" status.
>
> Pros: Drill down capabilities for county level data supported by current NAPIS design. Allows for subsequent data entry.
>
> Cons: Requires some programming By NAPIS developers. No ability to record service information. Must rely on 'Misc' notes field to capture service information like # of services, duration between services, and dates of services.

NCC Conference Call October 1, 2009

Pest Tracker Maps

We have worked with Purdue to make some changes in the Pest Tracker maps displayed for the public. Susan Schechter sent an email via the CAPS listserve on 10/1/09 highlighting these changes. An excerpt from the email is below.

> Check out the new features in Pest Tracker.
>
> RSS feed is available on the Pest News page.
>
> CAPS survey maps have been expanded and enhanced to include:
>
> - All time
> - Yearly from 2000 to present (includes summarized data)
> - Past three years (includes summarized data)
> - Maps can be downloaded as .pdf
> - County outlines have been changed from green to gray
> - Eradication color was changed from light aqua to dark brown

Other comments received include:

- Legends which explain the options (all time, 3 years, etc.) to display maps would be useful.
- Might want to consider map overlays which include tribal reservations--now readily available.
- My SSC seems to be content with existing maps. In my opinion, for its intended purpose (i.e. representing county summary data) these maps work well. You mentioned that these maps need to meet the needs of NAPIS users. CERIS used to attempt gather info on its users. Does it still do this and if so what do we know about who is using it?
- Our only comment from Arizona - is that Pest Tracker needs to be ready for "official control" pests when that comes to fruition. Otherwise, we are happy with Pest Tracker.....
- The maps are basic, but well designed. The only suggestion that I have is that the 6 terms used in the legend should be defined -- some are confusing. e.g., What does "established by consensus" mean. Does "not found" designate locations where surveys were performed and the pest was not found, while the blanks are locations where the pest was not found because no survey was performed? What does "being eradicated" mean? Does it actually mean "being treated" and they hope this will eradicate the pest?
- The last comments leads to the question/concern whether everyone is in agreement of the terms used for the mapping status options.

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.

- Larger regional maps that better show counties, especially in the northeast, are needed.

These suggestions and recommendations will be taken into account as we continually update the functionality of the maps in Pest Tracker. Suggestions are welcome at any time.

The following proposal for consensus data was approved by the NCC (by consensus, of course). This will be put into operation January 1, 2010, or as soon as possible thereafter.

> The proposal put on the table was to program the database so that once a consensus record was added (following the protocol, of course), then that record would automatically carry over from year to year until another consensus record was entered indicating that the pest, for whatever reason, was no longer established in that state. This way, consensus data would be displayed on the Pest Tracker maps each year on a yearly basis starting at the time the record was entered without the need for the state to enter consensus records each year.

Commodity Documents

The **Commodity Survey Reference** for Small Grains, Soybean and Grape contain updated risk maps and are posted on the CAPS site (courtesy of Melinda Sullivan). Citrus, Pine and Oak References do not currently contain risk maps and will be updated to contain them.

The **Exotic Wood-boring Bark Beetle Reference** has been removed from the CAPS and PPQ sites because it contains outdated information. Until updates can be completed and it can be published, please refer to Appendix M: EWB/BB Survey Methodology for Negative Data for trap and lure information for EWB/BB target species. If you need any additional information contact Lisa.D.Jackson@aphis.usda.gov.

Melinda Sullivan also offered this update:

> I am currently plugging away on the corn reference. I hope to have it finished up by end of October/beginning of November.
>
> We (Richard Zink and I) had a short conference call with Allen Biggs (stone fruit reference) last week. The pest list is still being ironed out. He wants to talk to some colleagues about the pathogen list to see if anything is missing. Right now it includes Plum pox virus, two phytoplasmas, and brown root rot (Phellinus noxius). He doesn't plan to complete any significant work on the manual until after harvest season.

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.

NCC Conference Call October 1, 2009

CAPS Conference - December 2010

The 2010 CAPS Conference is tentatively scheduled to take place either the week of November 29 or the following week of December 6, 2010. The following cities are being investigated for a cost analysis (in no particular order): New Orleans, LA, Charleston, SC, Austin, TX, Mobile, AL, and Washington, D.C. Please forward any preference for dates or location (even other dates or cities than listed above) to your NCC representative. The CAPS Conference cannot be held in a location considered a resort area. All of Florida is considered in this category during the time frame of our meeting.

Farm Bill Survey Supplies

Survey Supplies for Farm Bill projects should **not** be ordered at this time. Guidance will be given on how and when to order these supplies. The time frame for this may not be until late November into December. Much will depend on the time it takes for Departmental approval and stakeholder buy-in of the spending plan.

The next NCC call will be on Thursday, November 5, at 11:00 am eastern time.

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.