



Minutes

Participants

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

Farm Bill

The process to obtain authorization to spend Farm Bill money has been long and arduous. Additionally, the funds are annual funds and must be spent or obligated before the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2009. As a result of the short time frame between now and the end of FY09, decisions are being made based on the Implementation Plan (posted on the PPQ Farm Bill web page) on how best to spend the funds for this year before they are lost. An open process is being pursued that keeps the National Plant Board (NPB), industry representatives, and other stakeholders aware of the decisions that have to be made. There is general agreement that this is necessary for this year. A list of projects funded for FY09 will be available. For FY2010, the process will be more inclusive, and input will be/is sought from various sources, and will include meetings, webinars, etc. A survey is currently posted on the NPB web site to help aid in APHIS's efforts to implement Section 10201 of the Farm Bill.

PPQ Farm Bill web page:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pest_detection/farm_bill.shtml

Farm Bill Survey at NPB site:

http://nationalplantboard.org/farm_bill_survey.html

2010 Survey Guidelines

The Survey Guidelines and updated appendices have been posted on the CAPS web site. <http://ceris.purdue.edu/caps/adm2010/adm2010000001.htm>. The 2010 Guidelines also are posted on the PPQ Pest Detection site.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pest_detection/index.shtml

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Appendix M. It has been pointed out that the new Appendix M: EWB/BB Survey Methodology by Species for Negative Data conflicts with guidance listed in the Pine Commodity Survey Guidelines and the older Exotic Wood Borer Bark Beetle National Survey Field Manual regarding entry of negative data for pests when using different trap/lure combinations. Please be advised the new Appendix M will supersede any guidelines in the other documents. Further, those documents will be updated to align with the new guidelines in Appendix M.

Appendix M will officially take effect in 2010, but the guidance will be incorporated into the data entry validation for negative data in NAPIS later this year. An announcement will be made via the NCC and the CAPS listserv when this guidance goes live. If you have questions or comments regarding this issue please contact your National CAPS Committee (NCC) representative.

CAPS Accountability Report

The NCC was given access to the NAPIS developmental site where the CAPS Accountability Report is located for the purpose of editing, tweaking, and otherwise making sure that this report does as it is intended. Brian and Kristian also have been sending out state sections of the report to the respective states to check on validity and accuracy, and to inquire if the report reflects the status of data entry from the state's Pest Detection work plans. This tool matches pests targeted in each state's survey work plans and Pest Detection agreement with data entry in NAPIS. The intent of this tool is to track the requirement of the cooperative agreement to enter the data in NAPIS, and to be guide for the SPHD, SPRO, and APHIS survey coordinators to determine if this requirement is being met. Suggestions for improvement in the tool have been received, and further evaluation by the NCC is encouraged. An NCC conference call will be scheduled to further go over the Report and the information displayed. The Accountability Report will be available to the CAPS community mid to late summer.

NAPIS Worksheets / ISIS templates

NAPIS. Purdue and PPQ are in the process of developing a single record entry interface for commodity surveys with validation rules for negative data based on survey method (traps, lures, visual). An additional field will be added for lures to set validation rules. We also are pursuing the development of multiple/mass upload of records from commodity surveys.

Spreadsheet templates and data entry worksheets for commodity surveys will be developed for both single and multiple records. We are working closely with Kim Rice, Maryland Dept. of Agriculture, to help us with the initial flow of data entry. Before going live, the interface and templates will be tested with a group of both experienced and new users.

ISIS. Work on a developmental ISIS template for the Small Grains Commodity Survey has slowed because of problems. The team is having a hard time getting ISIS to do what it needs to do.

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It was brought to the attention of the NCC that access to ISIS for state cooperators is presently not possible. Those that could previously access ISIS with no problems, can no longer do so. According to Todd Schroeder, security software was installed at a higher level which affected the current VPN's ability to cross the APHIS firewall. This is an APHIS problem, and has nothing to do with the configuration of software and firewalls in the states. Compounding this, the person normally assigned to address this problem has left their position. APHIS is aware of the problem, and Todd will follow up with the appropriate folks to let them know of our concerns. Any transition to ISIS for the CAPS program cannot proceed unless all states have ready access to ISIS. Updates to the situation can be obtained by calling the ISIS help desk. Status reports also are posted on the ISIS web portal.

Pest Tracker

We are working on the next version of Pest Tracker, with the goal of being the site for information on exotic pests and pathogens threatening U.S. agriculture and the environment, as well as being our public face for survey results. Once we get to a certain stage in development, the NCC will be able to preview the site and add comments and suggestions. One feature to be incorporated on the home page will be a rotating Featured Pest. A list of 15-20 priority pests will be featured and up-to-date information available. The request is to determine what those pests should be. Suggestions should be sent to your representative on the NCC for forwarding.

PPQ Developmental Assignment - CAPS 101

Dr. Sheauching Cheng, a PPQ SITC-Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance officer from Oakland, CA, will be working on a CAPS 101 project in the Western Region Developmental Assignment Program in Ft. Collins, CO. One of the major suggestions from the CAPS Conference in Phoenix was to make available information on the CAPS program for those new CAPS, a CAPS 101 for beginners. Dr. Cheng will initiate and outline this effort, and the plan is to have a draft product available for review by the NCC by the end of her TDY assignment at the end of May. This will provide the springboard for more comprehensive materials, as well as outreach support for the CAPS program.

Regional Plant Board Meetings

Reports from the Regional Plant Board Meetings were given to the NCC. Good discussions were held in all the CAPS sessions, and the CAPS program appears to be on track with the release of the 2010 Guidelines. Although actual attendance was low due to travel restrictions in the states and PPQ, many were able to phone in and participate via a conference call. The NCC firmly believes that these sessions (either as side meetings or as part of the main agenda) at the Regional Plant Board meetings for SSCs, PSSs, and Program Managers are extremely valuable to the operation of the CAPS Program, and should be supported, promoted, and continued on a yearly basis.

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NCC Conference Calls

May 1, 2009

PPQ National Survey Supply Coordinator Position

A new PPQ National Survey Supply Coordinator (i.e., traps and lures) position is planned to be located in Emergency and Domestic Programs, Pest Detection, in Riverdale, MD. The person in this position will have national responsibility for oversight and coordination of the Survey Supply Procurement Program. A position description has been submitted to Human Resources for consideration and classification. The NCC will be notified when the position is announced and posted on the USAJOBS website.

The next NCC call will be on Thursday, June 4, at 11:00 am eastern time.

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