



Minutes

Farm Bill Surveys

The NCC held a conference call with the FY11 Farm Bill Review Team, National and Regional Program Managers, and others. The purpose of the call was to discuss the relative merits of several national and regional surveys for possible support and funding in FY11 via the Farm Bill. The goal would be to develop a short list of national and/or regional surveys that would be emphasized in FY11. For those surveys to be emphasized, a short 1-2 page synopsis or prospectus would be developed as a guide to help the states decide whether to participate or not.

The open period for interested parties to submit Farm Bill funding suggestions under Section 10201 for FY11 has begun, and runs through June 18, 2010. See the Farm Bill website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/section10201>. The Implementation Plan for Section 10201 outlines key strategies - organized into six major areas - to integrate and coordinate plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention activities that will be funded by Section 10201 of the 2008 Farm Bill. Under the first major goal area, "Enhance plant pest/disease analysis and surveys," APHIS' strategies include: 1) identifying and targeting high-risk pest pathways, 2) fully funding the highest priority pest-specific surveys, and 3) enhancing high-risk surveillance programs through State survey cooperative agreements.

Last year during the suggestion process, states submitted suggestions for survey, for the most part, independently. Many states submitted suggestions that were similar and focused on individual pests or pathogens, e.g., *Lobesia botrana*, *Phytophthora ramorum*, Plum Pox Virus, etc. These individual suggestions were grouped, states added, and a national survey was implemented. In some instances, states that did not submit a suggestion for a particular pest or pathogen were included in the national survey, and they did not know this until the spending plan was revealed. This was due to external factors that constrained the Farm Bill Team.

This year we would like to approach surveys for FY11 differently by directly engaging the National CAPS Committee (NCC) in discussions with the Farm Bill Team, and to help them develop a list of national surveys that may be supported through 10201 funding. This will allow the states to make more informed decisions when prioritizing and deciding what Farm Bill suggestions to submit, and what surveys they would like to do through CAPS. The PPQ National Program Managers were asked to submit suggestions from their perspective as to what national surveys that they would support through Farm Bill funding in FY11. The draft list of proposed surveys was developed. Other surveys not listed also may be considered.

The list of possible national/regional surveys discussed is copied below. This list is not inclusive, and only a starting point for discussion. No decisions on which surveys will be funded will be made at this time based on discussions on the call.



By Pest

Honey Bee Pest and Diseases

Asian Defoliating Moths / Asian Gypsy Moths

European grape vine moth - *Lobesia botrana*

Light brown apple moth - *Epiphyas postvittana*

Lepidoptera - to include light brown apple moth and European grape vine moth among others

Phytophthora ramorum

Plum Pox Virus

Exotic Snails

Federal Noxious Weeds - a select few to target

By Category

Habitat / Environmental

Marinas & Canals

Waterways

Wetlands

Nursery & Nursery Environs

Port Environs / Pathway

Asian Defoliating Moths

Exotic Snails

Commodity (with primary target)

Grape (*Lobesia botrana*)

Cotton (*Oxycarenus hyalinipennis* - cotton seed bug)

Solanaceous - tomato and pepper (*Tuta absoluta*)

Others?

Based on discussions, a national Lepidoptera and Exotic Snail survey may have taxonomic difficulty and logistical bottlenecks if attempted on a national scale. Also, a Lepidoptera survey may not lend itself to the efficiency and economy of bundling pests in a survey due to the wide variety of hosts and locations needed to survey, e.g., LBAM in a nursery and EGVM in a vineyard. A Noxious Weed survey with common targets also was thought not to be the best approach as target species differ widely across states and regions. A more localized or small regional approach was deemed the best strategy. Program Managers will work with the states to develop noxious weed surveys for consideration.

Honey Bee Pests and Diseases, Asian Defoliating Moths, *Phytophthora ramorum*, and Plum Pox Virus are national surveys that participants on the call thought would make good candidates for Farm Bill emphasis. Commodity-based national surveys with a required pest target also were



favorably discussed. The participants all thought that the Grape, Cotton, and Solanaceous surveys all were good ideas and could fit under the Farm Bill. Other commodity-based surveys also should be considered.

Several other surveys were mentioned on the call, but may be more semi-regional or localized. These were Laurel wilt disease and the vector of the pathogen, thousand cankers disease and associated vector, pecan nut survey in the southwest, ant surveys in Hawaii and Guam, and bark beetles/solid wood packing material/dunnage at ports survey.

There were several points that the group emphasized.

- One was that while national surveys are a good idea, these surveys should not overshadow more localized surveys for which states may want to submit suggestions. Local or state-specific survey suggestions also should be encouraged and considered for funding.
- Another point was that state funding for surveys should be sufficient to allow the state to conduct a legitimate survey. Insufficient funding to actually conduct the survey is not very efficient and wastes money. Trying to fund as many states as possible is a noble intention, but perhaps a survey should be more focused and not as inclusive. This approach may enable states that do conduct the survey enough resources to do a good job.
- A final point on the call was that there should be help to coordinate surveys, either national or regional surveys, from the national level. National and Regional Program Managers were encouraged to be involved in the process, talk with the states, and coordinate surveys within their program responsibilities.

A message is being prepared that will go out to the Farm Bill community on the topics and points discussed on this call, and suggestions for national surveys that may be supported and funded through the Farm Bill in FY11.

2010 CAPS Conference

The Decision Memorandum for a combined CAPS Conference / SPHD Meeting was submitted and signed by the PPQ Deputy Administrator on 5/6/10, and forwarded to the APHIS Administrator's Office. This is the first of several important steps during the approval process. Notwithstanding, please mark you calendars for the **2010 National CAPS Conference** to be held **Wednesday, December 1 through Friday, December 3, in Kansas City, MO**, with travel days on Tuesday, November 30 and the afternoon of Friday, December 3.

IPHIS and CAPS

Kathy Handy, Todd Schroeder, Matt Royer, and John Bowers met with the IPHIS contracting team on 5/6/10, and began the process of educating the contractors on the CAPS program.



NCC Conference Call

May 6, 2010

Another meeting is planned for the week of May 17, which will go into more detail about our business processes, and begin discussing complexes, templates, and reports.

The next NCC call will be on June 3, 2010, at 11:00 am eastern time.