



Minutes

Participants

John Bowers	Nancy Richwine
Brian Kopper	Lisa Jackson
Kristian Rondeau	Melinda Sullivan
Jason Watkins	Kathy Handy
Vicki Smith	Talitha Price
Julie Van Meter	Susan Schechter
Laurinda Ramonda	Valerie DeFeo
Beth Long	Chris Pierce
	(for Marge Rayda)

Farm Bill

The open period for suggestions runs through June 18. The NCC is encouraged to talk with their constituency and determine if there are other regional surveys that could be suggested, and to make sure that everyone who wishes to participate in a Farm Bill survey submits a suggestion before the closing date.

Round Robin

The NCC was asked to give an update from their constituency; what have they been talking about, what is on everyone's minds, what is happening, what are the concerns, issues, questions, etc. on any topic. Below is what was reported and/or submitted after the call. This is what your colleagues are thinking, doing, and saying.

PPQ Western Region SPHD & PSS

A standardized accomplishment report template (for infrastructure and survey) is being developed in Missouri in cooperation with Chris Pierce (PSS), Michael Brown (SPHD), Collin Wamsley (SPRO), and Douglas LeDoux (SSC) for consideration by the NCC. Currently, the states submit a final report that is not standardized in content or format. The draft template being developed will be an attempt to capture a standardized set of information with the goal of consistent reporting and tracking of accomplishments and performance.

- Bruce Shambaugh and Chris Pierce

There should be a review of the need for semi-annual and/or annual reports. As everyone begins using IPHIS in the upcoming years, much of the data needed for reports will be captured in the system. Reports can be developed that will pull the needed data and be able to align PPQ and

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State reporting. This is something that should be considered, and may be a part of the accomplishment report template mentioned above in the future.

Along the same line of thought on aligning PPQ and State reports, the J-3 Appendix, which captures survey targets and other information for Pest Detection-funded surveys, should be expanded to capture the information for all the cooperative agreements in a state over all funding sources.

- Chris Pierce

Another issue that came up relates to the trapping/lure options in the survey process. There is a certain amount of confusion that exists with regard to selection of trap type and lure as the process moves through the proposal phase, to ordering supplies in the trap/lure database, to what is actually received. There appears to be a lack of standardization in the naming convention between the guidelines, CPHST, trap and lure database, and companies producing the products. Often times, the description of the trap type, "paper delta" for example, changes between the various reference documents and the database, etc. What is required by the guidelines doesn't always agree with the trap/lure database options (or lacks specific description), etc. Paper trap, becomes, delta trap, becomes, red delta trap, etc., and then green or brown delta traps are received by the cooperator. A better understanding of what is required vs. recommended is needed. Also, standardization of trap and lure naming needs to be incorporated in manuals, protocols, CPHST, and trap and lure database. In reference to survey data, may I suggest that when states are proposing surveys for the following year that they include the survey data collection template for the survey. This will solve two problems: State(s) will begin thinking about what data they will collect, and if no template is available, allows time for development of template for survey (RPM & databases), and allows national focus on standardization of survey templates.

- Bruce Shambaugh and Chris Pierce

PPQ Eastern Region SPHD

Visual surveys have their place, dependant on the pest or the survey environment. Visual surveys can be effective tools for pest such as snails and ALB, or in the right environment (i.e. warehouses, crop or nursery settings). Forested environments pose a problem when surveying for a pest such as the oak splendor beetle (*Agrilus biguttatus*) when no known traps/lures are known. The Buprestid's D-shaped holes would be extremely difficult to detect in the crown of a large oak. Surveying for woodpecker activity (such as with EAB) can aid the surveyor. Biosurveillance could also be a useful survey tool. Cerceris wasps have been used to detect EAB and protocols may be finalized to use these wasps in the detection of EAB in the future (and the oak splendor beetle?).

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Having both the CAPS and SPHD meetings at the same venue is necessary from a budgetary standpoint, but will both meetings suffer due to SPHDs having to attend both? Some are concerned it will be difficult to "switch" between the two meetings. From SPHDs that have discussed these meetings with their SPROs, the responses are mixed. Some SPROs are concerned that the SPHD meeting being held the same week will take away from the CAPS meeting, a conference that last time had such a full agenda it could have used another day of meeting. From responses received, about 2/3 of SPHDs plan to stay for the remainder of the CAPS meeting (which adjourns Friday at noon) after the SPHD meeting concludes midday Thursday. The other 1/3 expects to return home first thing Friday morning.

Still skepticism in the constituency about IPHIS due to past experience with data collection systems. The field wants to be kept informed of progress/issues well before implementation date. SPHDs want to be sure their state counterparts are being "kept in the loop" as well.

- Jason Watkins

Eastern Plant Board SPRO

States are investigating the use of *Cerceris* wasp as a survey method.

Some states report confusion with Farm Bill and CAPS surveys, and the infrastructure limitations on trying to do all the surveys that the states would like to do.

- Vicki Smith

Central Plant Board - SPRO

Concerns about the requirements to purchase trapping and survey equipment through the USDA. Supplies are not getting to states in a timely manner. Some states believe they are prevented from ordering through private companies. Other states indicate they are not actually using this system for ordering supplies and have gone to private firms to purchase CAPS supplies. Some states worried about the capacity of this facility for handle all orders, especially in the future if it does become mandatory.

Continuing comments about need for consistent survey protocols when surveys are being conducted by multiple states.

National meeting-would like to see presentations by states on surveys they have done, especially national or regional surveys. Focus on the methods used and logistical problems encountered and overcome.

Question about why point-of-entry data is no longer getting to states and what the time line is for starting to send this to states again.

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Farm Bill-time line this year is much better than last year. Mixed response on process. Some concern the money could better be spent if it was limited to regulatory groups and used to supplement flat CAPS funding.

- Julie Van Meter

Eastern Plant Board SSC

SSCs are busy with survey activities and most state programs are moving according to plan.

Challenge of pinched state budgets; despite federally-funded cooperative agreements state hiring freezes, purchasing constraints and budget cuts are limiting some cooperators ability to conduct CAPS activities; could result in incomplete or scaled-back surveys and/or unclaimed funding.

Question about extent of detail needed for Farm Bill suggested surveys. Answer: submit estimates for major budget categories e.g. Personnel, Benefits, Travel, etc., not detailed financial plan.

Timing conflict; deadline for Farm Bill suggestions followed closely by CAPS proposals due date for FY2011 interferes with conducting current year survey activities.

Some cooperators remarked that PPV survey methodologies were insufficient, conflicting, and/or came too late; caused confusion, frustration.

- Nancy Richwine

Southern Plant Board SSC

NAPIS Database - states have concerns about lack of access to their own point data. Kathy Handy can be contacted by each state cooperator to address this issue so that each state can be allowed see their own data in NAPIS. Currently we are under a global lock down so that no one can see any of the point data.

SPB CAPS forum - appears to be going well; members are starting to use the discussion area and post files - Susan has been very helpful at ironing out any small technical issues/problems. It is under discussion to have the Regional forums opened up to John, Brian and Kristian. SPB members have been polled and are opposed to this option - users need to know about opening up the forum before changes are made.

General concerns about lack of communication - between PPQ and state cooperators, changes like FB project suggestions - instead of sending out an e-mail to one or two people with notification of change - it really needed to go to everyone. It is important to notify everyone when policy changes occur. John noted that state cooperators are welcome to go directly to the Regions

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(Brian or Kristian) or directly to him for answers about CAPS issues if the SPHD cannot assist them. Please cc the SPHD on your query.

The extremely stressed Financial Status of the States is a Major issue We are not looking for more money to be greedy - additional funds are needed to keep the state CAPS program going. Without hiring more support personnel, we cannot do survey work which is vital to the core of the program.

Farm Bill - Many states have had severe cutbacks in personnel, they cannot hire workers and cannot pay overtime to existing workers to do more survey work, and cannot take on more survey projects even if they would like to.

Growth of the CAPS program is a concern. It has been 7+ years since a funding increase for the CAPS program core infrastructure. As with any other budget, inflation, etc means that no increase is a Decrease in funds! There is no way to grow the CAPS survey programs without more boots on the ground in the states. And there is no way to get more people hired without additional core funding of a substantial nature that will be supported over multiple years. Without more people, states cannot do more surveys, whether they are for the Farm Bill, CAPS, line item, etc.

- Beth Long

Central Plant Board SSC

The SSCs have had discussions on several topics, including entering negative data, surveys being conducted in each state in 2010, and possible surveys to conduct in 2011.

With regard to Farm Bill surveys, the SSCs talked about a multi-state partnership for 1000 cankers disease of walnut. Do we need 1 suggestion for all states or each state individually with similar template? We will be doing individual ones with states wanting to do survey with other states listed in the cooperators section.

The SSCs also talked about pest detector workshops that states have had and numbers of participants.

- Laurinda Ramonda

Next NCC call will be on **Thursday, July 1, at 11:00 am eastern time.**

After the June 3 call, the NCC will resume once-a-month conference calls.

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