



Minutes

Participants

John Bowers	Nancy Richwine	Lisa Jackson
Brian Kopper	Beth Long	Melinda Sullivan
Kristian Rondeau	Laurinda Ramonda	Talitha Price
Jason Watkins	John Kaltenbach	Bob Rabaglia
Julie Van Meter	Kathy Handy	Valerie DeFeo
Vicki Smith	John Crowe	Gary Cave
Benny Graves	Joel Floyd	Dave Prokrym
Clair Allen	Susan Schechter	Tom Vorce
Avraham Eitam	Eileen Luke	
Chris Pierce	Charles Pierre	

Introductions

The new Pest Survey Specialist representing the PPQ Eastern Region on the NCC is Avraham “Avi” Eitam from Ohio. Avi follows Adam Silagyi, who has taken a position with USAID. Avi will serve out the few months remaining on Adam’s term, and begin serving a regular 3-year term beginning January 1, 2011. (See the NCC terms and rotation schedule at: <http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/node/72>).

Farm Bill Update

The 2011 Farm Bill Draft Spending Plan has been presented to USDA Under Secretary Avalos for his consideration. Currently, everything is on hold until the Department approves the plan and the Agency can legally request the funds. If all goes as planned, the spending plan can be made public soon after October 1, and PPQ can begin consultations with cooperators.

Speaking in general terms for surveys, surveys promoted for funding through the Farm Bill have been tentatively accepted, and there has been little overlap with those submitted for CAPS funding. An exception is the cotton / cotton seed bug survey. This survey will not be funded through the Farm Bill due to objections from industry that cotton is not a specialty crop in line with the language of the Farm Bill. States wishing to conduct this survey may need to alter their CAPS work plans. Contact Brain or Kristian in the regional offices if you need to make an adjustment.

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2010 CAPS Conference Update

The 2010 CAPS Conference was approved officially for December 1-3, 2010, in Kansas City, MO. A separate, but connected PPQ SPHD meeting will occur November 30 - December 2. Brian, Kristian, and John will meet with Troy Fine, our meeting facilitator, to work on the agenda for the 2010 CAPS Conference. The PPQ SPHD meeting will have a separate agenda. Many comments and suggestions were received at the regional Plant Board breakout sessions and through the NCC. If anyone has any more suggestions, they should be submitted to John as soon as possible. A draft agenda will be submitted to the NCC for review and comment, and posted on the CAPS Resource and Collaboration site in the near future. A generic justification letter also will be posted around the same time as the draft agenda on the CAPS site. If you need a specific justification letter, let John know.

The CAPS Conference will begin the evening of Tuesday, November 30, with an Introduction to CAPS session (the NCC will be required to attend) and a Welcoming Reception. Wednesday, December 1, will be a 'joint' session melding topics of interest to both the PPQ SPHDs and CAPS community. A Wednesday evening PSS/SSC networking session is scheduled. The PSSs and SSCs on the NCC will develop this session. Thursday morning, December 2, will feature the CAPS Fair with state posters, displays, booths, demonstrations, and a chance to interact one-on-one with taxonomic experts, get up-close-and-personal with IPHIS and the new CAPS Resource and Collaboration site, and other CAPS-related tools and products. Thursday afternoon through Friday morning will feature CAPS-related topics with the back-by-popular-demand breakout sessions. The Conference will run until noon on Friday. A late checkout option may be possible to encourage attendance until the meeting closes.

Three hotels are being considered for the CAPS Conference. The choice will be dependent on the contract. Currently, the Marriott Downtown in Kansas City is favored, although this could change. The contract for the hotel should be finalized in the next few weeks. An announcement will go out through the NCC when reservations can be accepted.

Troy will be our only 'official' facilitator. Facilitating duties will need to be shared by those who will be attending the meeting and have had facilitating training (both PPQ and State folks). We will need a broad range of people helping during the Conference, including help with charting and note-taking. The NCC will be responsible for leading discussions as the subject-matter expert. Community involvement is needed to make this a successful meeting. Once the agenda is finalized and we have a sense of what help is needed, a call for volunteers will go out.

Registration will depend on the cost of the hotel. Currently we're trying to keep the maximum at \$175. We investigated having a company handle registration in advance, but costs and other conditions made this option unfeasible. Unless otherwise noted, it will be cash only on site at

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registration as has been done in the past. An announcement will be made when reservations (including hotel) can be made.

EWB/BB Manual

The original Exotic Wood Borer/ Bark Beetle National Survey Guidelines has been revised and is now posted on the CAPS website and available for review. Edits, comments, and concerns should be directed to Lisa Jackson at lisa.d.jackson@aphis.usda.gov or 919-855-7549.

Comments need to be received by October 15th. If there is information that is still lacking or information that needs clarification, please contact Lisa. A discussion folder will be put on the CAPS Resource and Collaboration website so the entire community can comment on the draft. Significant revisions include the addition of: 1) eleven new pests; 2) tools and forms for determining high risk locations; 3) new pest datasheet sections; and 4) more detailed survey instructions.

Additional revisions that are still under development:

- Species-specific survey protocols for all species that only have a visual survey method available. The protocol included in the manual for *Agilus biguttatus* will be used as a template.
- Target species lists for *Xylotrechus* and *Xyleborus*. The genus level targets will be removed. This will allow species-specific attractants to be listed for target species, where appropriate.

CAPS-Approved Methods

There were many changes made to the CAPS-Approved Methods (Appendix M) from August 19 to 30, 2010. Lisa documented the changes in a Word document that Kristian and Brian have distributed to the Pest Survey Specialists. This document also is available on the CAPS Resource and Collaboration website.

CERIS is working on a way to clearly show new changes and updates to the CAPS-Approved Methods on the CAPS website. For now, Lisa will post Word documents by date that show changes to the CAPS-Approved Methods so individuals will know what recently has been changed or added. A method of versioning for the CAPS-Approved Methods is in progress. Also in progress is the programming of the NAPIS database for the validation of negative data for 2011 based on the CAPS-Approved Methods.

Please pay special attention to the length of effectiveness of EWB/BB lures. John Crowe and Lisa developed some conservative guidelines for the length of effectiveness of these highly

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temperature-dependent, variable lures. The recommendations will provide guidance on lure field life for even the warmest climates.

There also are significant additions of information that was lacking for individual pest species. Please read through the Word document that summarizes the changes very carefully.

CAPS Resource & Collaboration Website

A demonstration of the new website was scheduled for the afternoon of September 2. By all accounts it was favorably received. Plans are in place to continue the demonstrations as needed. Information on site demonstrations is found under Site Help, where announcements for demonstration with call in information will be posted.

Input on what works well for the CAPS community is appreciated. If individuals or groups would like a demonstration at a certain date or time, it can be arranged. It may be helpful to have demonstrations in smaller groups to arrange for constituencies to do this at one time together, this way demonstrations can be tailored more for individual groups.

Draft Reporting Templates

A CAPS working group is exploring the possibility of developing a standardized template for all parties to use for accomplishment reports. Accomplishment reports are required for cooperative agreements, and because there is no standardized template, many different formats (of different qualities) are being used. Several iterations have been evaluated and discussed, and discussion is continuing. The next iteration will be reviewed by the NCC and then shared with the CAPS community for review and comment. (Hint: this will be a topic of discussion at the CAPS Conference).

The group has been using the community pages on the CAPS R&C site to post and share comments. This has worked well. Some state cooperators cannot get docx files, so it is suggested that when loading new documents to the site, pdf or doc files should be used.

Julie noticed that in the CAPS Survey Guidelines there is a section that requires state cooperators to report accomplishments to their respective SPHDs as ADODRs of the agreements. However, this is not in the wording of the cooperative agreement. It was suggested that this requirement should be in the agreement language. Because this is not specifically stated in the cooperative agreements, it's not technically required (even though it's in the Guidelines). Kristian will look into this and get back with the group.

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Pest List Working Group (PLWG)

Suggested changes from the CAPS community to the Commodity Pest Lists or Additional Pests of Concern List should be submitted to the PLWG for consideration and evaluation. The PLWG will consider whether the pests are still relevant to the CAPS mission or should be added, dropped, or retained. **Any comments or suggestions should be sent to Lisa, Melinda, and/or John by COB, Friday, October 1.** The NCC should discuss this topic with their constituency and determine if there are specific pests on these lists that should be re-evaluated for the 2012 Guidelines.

AHP Prioritized List

There has been discussion to add a pathway component to the criteria in the AHP model. The pathway component was included in the older model several years ago. However, based on the theory on which the AHP model is based, the pathway component cannot be part of the model as it is not an independent criterion. (For those of you statistically-minded, this is akin to cross-correlation in regression analysis, which is to be avoided). A subgroup of folks from the CAPS leadership and the AHP Core Team are considering ways to use pathway as either a pre- or post-screening tool to filter out pests that are not likely to enter the United States. The topic will be discussed further and information and proposals will be brought back to the NCC for discussion.

The group also is currently looking at the validity of the current list (are we hitting the mark?), and is considering other approaches to the model. Gary is going to look at the interception data and compare it to the AHP list. This information will be discussed later. It has been noted that certain organisms (plant pathogens) have latent periods and would not necessarily be represented in the interception data. Because of this, the group may decide to put more emphasis on interception data for insects vs. pathogens.

Suggested additions or deletions to the AHP Prioritized Pest List for 2012 should be submitted now. Pest recommendations can be sent to John Bowers. The group currently has seven pests from last year that will be run this year. Please include any literature or information/sources as to why the pest should be included.

It was suggested that the AHP Core Team should provide a list of what happens to the pests that have been suggested, including the reasons why a pest has not been included in the list. Once the new model (including any changes regarding pathway), the AHP Core Team will provide a history of yearly changes to the AHP list that can be posted to the website.

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When the AHP list was shortened to 50-65 pests from the original list of 100+ pests, the remaining pests were added to the Additional Pests of Concern List. Currently, pests are added to this list if there is significant interest from the field in making them available for survey, but they do not meet the criteria of the AHP or fit within one of the commodity surveys. Over time the Additional Pests of Concern List may get too long and cumbersome and the NCC may have to decide how to shorten this list.

The pests on the Additional Pests of Concern List have not been run through the new model. The AHP Core Team needs to run these pests through the new model (once it has been revised) to determine if these pests would rank higher in the new model.

NAPIS/ISIS/IPHIS

For 2011, NAPIS will continue to be the final repository of all CAPS data. Data collection for 2011 will be the same as 2010. Remember, negative data validation rules will go into effect January 1, 2011 based on the published CAPS-Approved Methods. Please plan your surveys accordingly.

The status of the ISIS system for 2011 is unclear. The system will be out of certification for the 2011 season, and may be shut down. The Western Region office has submitted a Decision Memo to the Deputy Administrator's office outlining several options, from shutting it down to re-certifying the system (and the cost it would entail). For now, the staff is planning to continue to support the ISIS system until told otherwise. Concern from numerous states was noted as many plan to use ISIS in 2011. System updates will be communicated as soon as they are available.

We will hear more about the status of IPHIS and the time line for implementation of the CAPS program at the CAPS Conference in December. If ISIS is to be phased out sooner than anticipated, it will be a priority to transfer the functions of those programs that use ISIS to IPHIS as quickly as possible. This will push back the implementation of CAPS into IPHIS due to resource allocations. However, the CAPS program will not start migrating to IPHIS until the program suits our needs and does what we need it to do. So there is no reason to start worrying now. It will all work out in the end. Be cool, no worries.

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

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