

# NATIONAL PLANT BOARD FOR NEW SPROS

## MISSION:



Provide leadership in developing and implementing science based regulatory policies and plant health programs, enable trade and protect agricultural and natural resources of the United States.



[nationalplantboard.org](http://nationalplantboard.org)

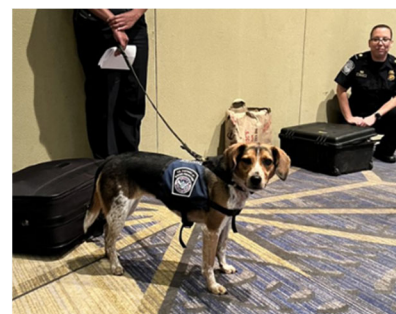
## PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL PLANT BOARD

- Provide national representation for the regional plant boards
- Foster effective and harmonized plant health programs
- Collaborate and communicate effectively with public and private agencies and organizations on plant health and plant pest regulatory issues affecting states
- Protect agriculture, horticulture, forestry and the environment on state, national, and international levels



## SPRO ROLE:

As the new SPRO, you are the contact and recognized authority on all plant protection concerns for your state. You will receive a number of requests to update contact information, or create accounts on a variety of USDA information systems. You will receive invitations to attend virtual meetings and conference calls for plant pest and protection program updates. You may have prior experience with plant health regulation, or this may be a new aspect of your job. You may step into a plant health emergency response on day one as a new SPRO. Your NPB mentor, SPROs in neighboring states, and your regional plant board officers can all help orient you to your new role.



## WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Introductory letter and information from the National Plant Board President
- Contact from your regional plant board president and/or the Mentoring Committee Chair
- Assignment of an NPB mentor
- Participation in recurring regional plant board conference calls
- Participation in the regional plant board annual meeting
- Participation as a voting member at the National Plant Board annual meeting

## GETTING INVOLVED:

The National Plant Board is strongest when members are engaged in fulfilling the NPB's mission. Each member brings a wealth of experience. There are opportunities for you to get involved with programs that interest you and match your background. Please complete the new SPRO survey so that the NPB can get to know you and your interests. The link to the new SPRO survey is available within the NPB Mentoring Program overview on the NPB website basement.



## NEW SPRO INTRODUCTION TO THE NPB:

- *As your state's new SPRO (State Plant Regulatory Official), you are a voting member of the National Plant Board (NPB)*
- *The NPB is a network of experienced members that can help orient a new SPRO to their role*
- *NPB members are technical experts and are a valuable resource for other state and federal programs to understand their state's unique regulatory structure and plant health protection concerns and activities*
- *The NPB provides a network in which to communicate, stay aware of plant health issues around the country, and coordinate responses*
- *The NPB provides opportunities for SPROs to shape regional and national plant health programs and pest responses*
- *NPB is not a lobbying organization*
- *NPB does not have control over states' actions*



## NATIONAL PLANT BOARD RESOURCES:

- NPB Mentoring Program: onboard new SPROs to their role and cultivate their participation in the NPB. A mentor is assigned to you
- Regional plant board conference calls: periodic calls within each region provide an opportunity to “meet” other SPROs in your region that may have similar responsibilities and pest concerns
- National Plant Board website: [nationalplantboard.org](http://nationalplantboard.org), including:
  - ◇ Laws and Rules page—up-to-date summaries of plant health regs for each state
  - ◇ Basement—archived and current documents for SPROs only. Your mentor or regional plant board president can provide the password for access
  - ◇ Member contact information
  - ◇ Information about regional and national meetings
  - ◇ Policies and Documents—like the Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan, model laws, compliance and enforcement tools, guidelines for regulating firewood and more
  - ◇ Information on committees and opportunities to volunteer on specific NPB projects
- Your regional plant board and National Plant Board officers and Board of Directors. Their contact information is available on the NPB website

