

Plant Protection and Quarantine Updates

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 Plant Protection and Quarantine
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News from APHIS

- Gregory Parham is acting as the Assistant Secretary for Administration
- Kevin Shea is the acting Administrator
- Peter Fernandez is acting Associate Administrator
- In the hiring process: Associate Deputy Administrator (vice Paul Eggert) and Western Regional Director (vice Phil Garcia)
- Mike Watson is the new Director of Plant Health Programs
- Vernon Harrington is acting Director for Western Region

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PPQ Program Updates


- **Firewood Regulations** - Set labeling and record keeping for interstate movement
- **Emerald Ash Borer Program** – Federal Order to allow unrestricted movement of regulated articles within contiguous regulated boundaries, except in "protected areas"
- **Asian Longhorned Beetle** – Eradication programs continue in Massachusetts and Ohio
- **Phytophthora ramorum** – Recommendation: the notification requirement be limited to positive interstate shipping nurseries in regulated counties and all interstate shipping nurseries in quarantined counties.



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Noxious Weeds

- The appropriated line was eliminated this year.
- Limited options for taking action with regard to the interstate movement of Federal noxious weeds.




Plum Pox Virus

- Working closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to assess the impact of the Canadian PPV policy change on New York PPV program and the stone fruit industry in the United States.

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Light Brown Apple Moth

- Draft LBAM Harmonization Plan was distributed to the NPB for comments.
- Transitioning the regulatory authority for interstate movement of host plants to the States.
- APHIS will maintain regulatory authority for at the family level at the ports-of-entry



Ongoing Pest Advisory Group

- To provide a transparent and inclusive means to review existing pest programs
- Currently, PPQ is reviewing the Japanese beetle program

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Farm Bill 10201

FY 2012 Update

- In FY 2012, 330 projects are funded. The spending plan was approved by in May.
- NPB posted an on-line survey on their website asking for feedback on the Farm Bill process, such as commencing the process earlier in the year.
- PPQ will convene webinars and meetings to obtain input on the FY 2013 process.

Comparative State Risk Assessment

- Conducted to address a mandate in Section 10201 of the 2008 Farm Bill to help identify priority areas and inform funding needs based on risk.

The draft state risk assessment is under review.

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National Program and Activity Coordination

- National program and activity coordination will be supported by cross-functional teams consisting of representatives from each core functional area

The diagram consists of three overlapping circles. The top-left circle is labeled 'Science and Technology' and contains the text: 'Robust scientific research and data analysis guides the development of practical policies, programs, and operational approaches'. The top-right circle is labeled 'Policy Management' and contains: 'Policies and regulations are based on science and account for political and socio-economic realities'. The bottom circle is labeled 'Field Operations' and contains: 'Operations are nationally consistent, sustainable, and focused on the highest risks while blending policy and science for effective program delivery'. Double-headed arrows connect each pair of overlapping circles.

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Benefits of the Restructuring Effort

- Minimize, if not eliminate, regional differences in program implementation
- Create a single point of contact for pest programs
- Able to more effectively connect the dots with other trade-related activities not only across APHIS, but across the Department and the Government as a whole

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Many Things Will Stay the Same

- Working cooperatively with State partners
- National Plant Health Emergency Management Framework
- State plant health directors – primary point of contact for State plant regulatory officials

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Next Steps

- July 20 – August 24: Collect feedback on proposed structure from employees and stakeholders
- August 6: Plant Health Programs and Emergency and Domestic Programs will officially merge and begin operating as a single unit
- October 1: Begin implementation of the other organizational structural changes

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Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance

- Re-focus SITC efforts on detecting and mitigating the introduction or movement of high-risk products through commerce that present a tangible threat to US agriculture and natural resources
- Form a technical working group to develop strategic priorities that should be addressed by SITC
- Place the entire SITC workforce under Field Operations and integrate SITC positions into the existing state plant health director structure

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Thank you.

Questions?

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