Biocontrol Breakout Session
National Plant Board Meeting – Indianapolis
Wednesday, July 28, 2010

We all recognize that chemical solutions to manage invasive pests are becoming more limited and are increasingly met with public resistance. The purpose of this session is to share and gather information about the development and use of biological control for pest management in the United States and the roles and responsibilities of PPQ, other federal agencies and state partners. The desired outcome is to develop a better understanding of biocontrol in PPQ and in the states. We believe that together we can best identify the challenges and possible solutions to build a strong and mutually beneficial biocontrol program. Below are some questions to stimulate thought and discussion. At the end of the session, we will identify next steps to address biocontrol issues.

1. From your viewpoint what are the basic characteristics of a successful biocontrol program?
2. How effective have we worked to transfer biocontrol technology to state/regional based programs? What worked? What did not work?
3. What factors should be considered before PPQ initiates or supports a biocontrol program? What factors should be considered for PPQ to discontinue support for a program?
4. What is the overall Federal Role (PPQ, USFS, ARS, NIFA) in biological control/insect rearing?
5. Do we need a technical advisory committee for arthropod biocontrol recommendations?
6. Should there be a consolidated national rearing facility or rely on state or regional facilities to meet biocontrol needs? Why?
7. What role should PPQ have in production rearing of biocontrol agents for mass release? What role should the states have? What is the role of industry?
8. How can we better leverage each other's expertise and that of other biocontrol experts?
9. How should states be engaged in the business of insect rearing?
10. What are the social/political challenges confronting biocontrol? How can we address them?
11. What should be our collective vision for biological control for the next 5 and 10 years? Where do we want to be?

Next Steps