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2006 ANNUAL MEETING Milwaukee, Wisconsin

RESOLUTION NO. 9

PLUM POX ERADICATION

The D-strain of plum pox virus (PPV) was discovered in Pennsylvania in late 1999 and in Ontario, Canada in the spring of 2000. Since that time, USDA, APHIS, PPQ, in cooperation with the State of Pennsylvania has conducted an intensive survey and eradication program in Pennsylvania. This eradication effort has virtually eliminated plum pox from Pennsylvania. Likewise, extensive cooperative survey activities have been conducted in all of the stone-fruit producing states of the United States between 1999 and 2005 with negative results.

Since 2000, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has also conducted intensive survey and eradication activities to protect the Canadian stone fruit industry. On May 16, 2006, CFIA announced a moratorium on the PPV eradication program in Ontario for the summer of 2006 despite significant finds of plum pox in the Niagara area of Ontario in 2005. This moratorium has placed the future of plum pox eradication in Ontario and North America at risk.

On July 10, 2006, a CAPS-plum tree sample from Niagara County, New York was confirmed positive for plum pox. A response has been activated, ICS system put in place, and intense delimit sampling initiated. However, due to the close proximity of plum pox finds in the Niagara area of Ontario and suspension of Canadian eradication efforts, eradication at this site is in jeopardy. Additionally, a second plum pox positive was confirmed in a plum orchard in southwest Michigan (Berrien County) in 2006.

RESOLVED, by the membership of the National Plant Board at its annual meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 16, 2006, that we request USDA, APHIS, PPQ immediately initiate negotiations with CFIA in an attempt to have effective eradication efforts for plum pox re-instated immediately in Ontario.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USDA, APHIS, PPQ seek the resources to adequately fund eradication efforts in New York, Michigan, and any other locations where this disease is found in the United States and adequately fund national surveys and that fair compensations be provided to orchard owners who lose trees as a result of these eradications.

Motion to adopt: Gene Cross, Chair, Resolutions/Policy Committee
Seconded by: Ann Gibbs, ME Member

Distribution:

Honorable Michael Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture, USDA
Dr. Chuck Lambert, Deputy Under Secretary, USDA
Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA, APHIS
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Vic Harabin, Eastern Regional Director, USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Phil Garcia, Western Regional Director, USDA, APHIS, PPQ
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Bob Ehart, NASDA
Ken Rausher, President, National Plant Board
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