

Continued Interagency Coordination

Contact: Michael E. Cooper, President

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Background and Status

The current environment of government downsizing, diminishing financial resources, competing priorities, and increasing public demand for services, have forever changed the manner in which federal and states agencies must now accomplish their statutorily-imposed mandates. In this new environment, it is expected both federal and state agencies must employ broad and innovative strategies to ensure these agency mandates are achieved and critical industry and consumer issues are addressed in a timely and cost-efficient manner. No longer can agencies function in an independent manner and expect to be successful in effectively addressing the multitude of issues confronting them.

The active engagement of the National Plant Board (NPB) in discussions with USDA, APHIS, PPQ is of paramount importance, especially when such actions directly affect the implementation of plant pest programs at the state level or clearly benefit the state and federal government, producers and industry. NPB member states fully share in and have a joint responsibility for safeguarding agriculture and the environment in their respective

states. This joint responsibility requires impacted states or regions to share their expertise through consultations with the USDA, APHIS, PPQ when there are proposed reductions in related staffing or programs. While these general consultations are always highly valuable and highly encouraged, the current and active development of modernization plans must include shared discussion with the NPB in regards to impacts on related state activities. Discussions such as these provide the unique opportunity for individual states or regions to provide valuable expertise critical in the decision-making matrix.

National Plant Board-Policy Directives

The NPB fully supports those opportunities that provide its membership with an opportunity to engage in the decision-making process with regards to partner staffing reductions or increases, co-locations and related budgetary issues. It is expected sharing in the joint decision-making further affords the greatest measure of state endorsement and support, thus leading to the most efficient and effective delivery of services.