FOR INFORMATION DA-2007-44 September 20, 2007

SUBJECT: John Bowers Selected as PPQ's National Survey Coordinator

## TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. John H. Bowers as the new National Survey Coordinator for PPQ's Pest Detection program, effective September 2, 2007.

Dr. Bowers formerly served with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), where he was responsible for the supervision, operation, and management of the State's Plant Pathology Laboratory. This laboratory includes a plant diagnostic clinic, which supports MDA's nursery inspectors and the Maryland nursery industry and conducts APHIS-certified molecular diagnostics for *Phytophthora ramorum*, as well as other pathogens of regulatory and economic concern.

Prior to working with MDA, Dr. Bowers worked at the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) Alternate Crops and System Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland.

As a research scientist, Dr. Bowers studied microbial ecology, epidemiology, etiology, and biological control of both foliar and soil-borne plant pathogens affecting a wide variety of host plants.

Dr. Bowers received a Bachelors of Science degree in Botany from the University of Maryland, a Masters of Science degree in Plant Pathology from Rutgers University, and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of Florida. He has held postdoctoral appointments in the Departments of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin, Ohio State University, and the University of Minnesota. He has also held a postdoctoral appointment with ARS' Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit in Beltsville.

Please welcome John Bowers into his new position as the National Survey Coordinator. He can be reached at (301)734-3658 and his e-mail address is john.bowers@aphis.usda.gov.

/s/ John H. Payne for

Richard L. Dunkle Deputy Administrator Plant Protection and Quarantine