

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2009-22
May 26, 2009

SUBJECT: Selection of Directors for Fruit Fly and Forest Pest Programs

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Plant Protection and Quarantine Program (PPQ) is pleased to announce the selection of two excellent and experienced individuals, Dr. Scott Pfister and Mr. Wayne Burnett, to serve as the Director's of Forest Pest and Fruit Fly Programs, respectively. Both will serve as in PPQ's Emergency and Domestic Programs (EDP) division.

The Director of Forest Pest Programs is a new position created in response to the expanding nature of forest health issues in the United States. This position will oversee forest pest programs, such as those for Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer, and work to coordinate the development of forest pest mitigation measures at the national level.

Dr. Scott Pfister was selected to fill the position of Director of Forest Pest Programs, beginning June 8, 2009, based on his unique skills and experienced gained through 19 years service working with plant protection organizations. He most recently worked from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, where he held the position of Forest Resource Protection Chief. In that capacity, Dr. Pfister managed all of Vermont's forest health programs, including long-term and fixed plot monitoring, exotic forest pest surveys, aerial survey and suppression programs, and forest regulatory pest programs. He also previously served as the State Plant Regulatory Official and Plant Pathologist for the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

In addition, to a Ph.D. in Natural Resources (Forest Health specialization), Dr. Pfister holds a Masters of Science degree in Plant Pathology and a Bachelors of Science degree in Agronomy. Dr. Pfister is also a Captain in the National Guard and served a tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2008, where he worked on security and economic development projects, including the establishment of an Afghan agricultural experiment station.

Mr. Wayne Burnett, will assume the position of Director of Fruit Fly Program as of May 25, 2009. Wayne brings with him 28 years of experience working for APHIS PPQ both in the field and at the National level. Mr. Burnett has served as PPQ's Domestic Coordinator for the Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection Program for the past five years. Prior to that, he was the Team Leader for the Import and Interstate Services staff under PPQ's Phytosanitary Issues Management group. His field experience is split between domestic programs (including citrus canker and fruit fly programs) and Agricultural Quarantine Inspection activities (including duty at seaports, airports, and border crossings

in California, Florida, and Puerto Rico). Mr. Burnett has served as a fruit fly trapper, quality control officer, and survey director during various fruit fly eradication projects and once served as the Co-Director of the Florida Mediterranean Fruit Fly Sterile Insect Facility in Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Burnett is currently serving as Acting Director of Fruit Fly and Forest Pest Programs. Upon assuming the position as Director of Fruit Fly Programs, he will continue to serve as the Acting Director of Forest Pest Programs until Dr. Pfister reports for duty.

For additional information about these selections, you may contact Mr. Jeffrey Grode, Associate Director, PPQ EDP, at Area Code (301) 734-5667.

/s/ Michael A. Lidsky for

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