Biological Control – Update on National Program Direction/Strategic Plan

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine

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PPQ Definition

Biological control is the intentional use of natural enemies (“biological control agents” – parasites, predators, pathogens, competitors, or antagonists) to reduce pest populations to levels below which would occur in the absence of the natural enemies, thus making a pest less damaging.

Project Prioritization Factors

- importance of pest (emergency, significant impacts)
- amount of resources needed (time and money)
- opportunities (e.g. agent timing, climate, partnerships)
- likelihood of success (e.g. measurable, agent impacts)

Overview of PPQ BC Strategic Goals

1) Ensure program supports PPQ’s long and short term priority pest targets.
2) Strengthen partnerships with external resources.
3) Enhance management, program staff, and stakeholder’s awareness and understanding of program.
4) Develop avenues to monitor, evaluate/measure and communicate program outputs and outcomes.
Strengthen Prevention and Preparedness

• Support and coordinate foreign exploration and pre-release activities for BC agents for high priority pests.

• Work closely with key partners and stakeholders to identify and leverage off-shore opportunities for key pests not yet in the USA.

• Prepare for invasive pest threats to ensure a more rapid deployment of BC.

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Activities

Engage stakeholders and experts for input into PPQ target and priority setting process.

• National and Regional Plant Board meetings per invitation
• Interagency planning, steering and technical support meetings/collaborations
• Tribal consultations and technical support
• Professional society meetings
• Regional pest specific meetings, workshops, advisory groups

Additional program plans (not exhaustive)

• Annual timeframe to receive BC projects – improved planning and budgeting

• Internal and external communications (annual report, SharePoint site, PPQ website, permitting process)

• Leveraging existing rearing facilities, resources, and expertise

• Improved accomplishment/data reporting

• Cost – sharing captured (indirect and direct)

What about the money?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Field Ops</th>
<th>$3,744,857</th>
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<td>Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agreements</td>
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Volunteer Plant Board Representatives for BC Strategic Planning

• SPB: Trevor Smith - Florida
• EPB: Carol Holko - Maryland
• WPB: Mike Pitcairn - California
• CPB: Monica Chandler - Minnesota

Key Review Comments

• APHIS critical role in shared response and mitigation strategies – plan is not far off from expectations
• BC Steering Committee – member composition
• Structured approach to a national prioritized target list for BC (e.g., every 5 years) – process, time frame, frequency, participation
• Follow-up and assessment process - how much/long
• TAG issues – communication, timeliness, guidelines and criteria. Separate and distinct unit from BC Cross-Function Working Group
Time for a few questions/suggestions/comments…

Thank you on behalf of the PPQ BC-CFWG!

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