National Plant Board
Strategic Alliance - Training Priority

Geir Friisoe & Ken Waters
Training Priority – Background

- Championed by Geir Friisoe- NPB and Ken Waters – PPQ PDC
- Members: Brian Kuhn-WI, John Caravetta – AZ and Mark Dagro -PDC
- Identified courses PDC provides to States
- Reviewed training provided by other federal agencies with a focus on EPA
- Identified preliminary training priorities of the states.
Training Needs—Recent Priorities

Top training needs based on recent assessments:

- Investigation, Compliance and Enforcement
- Export/PCIT/ACO
- SANC/Audit
- Post Entry Quarantine
- Survey/Identification
- Agreements
- Seed Potato Certification
Training Needs—Addressed by PPQ

Several are being addressed through PPQ:

• **Export/PCIT/ACO**  Training available through PPQ Export Certification Specialists and PCIT

• **Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ)**  CBT Course available on the PEQ website

• **Agreements**  Online course available in AgLearn. Training has been well received. [Click here](#)
Training Needs—Addressed w/Added Resources

Some are being at least partially addressed with additional resources:

• **SANC/Audit:** PDC offers Understanding Audit course; 2 offerings Aug 2017; 23 from 13 states—Safeguarding Agreement (20K) helped to pay for travel for participants. Even with 2 additional offerings—need is not met

• **Seed Potato Certification:** Obtained $120K in Farm Bill 10007 support under Goal #5; initiated & administered by Brian Kuhn/WI; held July 11-13 at UW Madison; most seed producing states attended; 14 states 24 people
Training Needs—Yet to be Addressed

Some are yet to be addressed:

- **Investigation, Compliance and Enforcement**: Potential offering in FY 18—submitting Farm Bill proposal through Minnesota.

- **Survey/ID**: Could provide seats to selected modules in PDC Basic Agricultural Safeguarding Training but not customized for states and funding not available for travel. Contact Mark Dagro about availability 240-529-0262.
Training Needs—Identified but not Vetted

Some potential NPB training needs identified by our working group:

- Biological control of regulated pests
- Federal Statutes: PPA and CITES
- Noxious and Invasive Plants
- Pest Survey Techniques
- Specific pest training
- APHIS e-file systems training when available
- Etc.
Training Needs

These examples point to the overall conclusion of the working group about State Training:

1. PDC can offer some training to states but they are not staffed to provide tailored national training

2. Resources are not available for
   a) Developing customized training for states
   b) Travel for state personnel to attend classroom style and connect with and learn from employees from other states with similar positions

3. Farm Bill can provide some help but need a sustainable source of funding
Feedback: Seed Potato Certification Training

What aspects of the training did you find most useful?

“Talks with other inspectors and state agencies. I liked talking about our similar concerns and learning about their programs”

“It is important to bring Shipping Point Inspection and Plant Certification folks together…Both are involved however rarely understand each other’s work/roles”

“Case studies were very informative…I liked being paired with many different individuals…the knowledge base is so vast”
NPB Resolution and PPQ Response

Resolution

• NPB wants to improve the professional expertise and ensure consistency and uniformity among the states and PPQ; other Fed agencies provide states funding for training; NPB need sustainable funding for members

• NPB 1) asked PPQ to ID funding sources, 2) promised to create a standing committee to provide admin oversight and ID NPB training needs; and 3) asked PPQ to develop options to provide admin support, coordinate state training program and work with the committee to develop and deliver training through PDC, Universities or other entities

Response from PPQ DA

• The NPB BOD and the PPQ MT agreed that the committee needed to specifically identify the unfunded training needs and level of funding necessary to address those needs.
Next Steps

• Minnesota, on behalf of the NPB/PPQ Training Committee submitting a 2018 Farm Bill proposal for Investigation, Compliance and Enforcement Training
• Use revised approach to assess training needs by early 2018 (more inclusive process)
• Continue to explore a sustainable funding source
• PDC to continue to offer what it can
• **Vision:** National Training Curricula for state personnel involved in safeguarding American agriculture and natural resources