



THE CENTRAL PLANT BOARD

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2006 Resolution No. 3 Addressing Diagnostic and Taxonomic Support for CAPS

Recent enhancements in the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program, in response to the terrorist events of September 11 and the Safeguarding Review, have substantially improved pest survey and detection activities at the state and regional level. However, the tremendous increase in samples generated from pest surveillance activities and their screening requirements leading to diagnostic and/or taxonomic confirmation was unexpected. This has resulted in a significant delay in obtaining timely diagnostic/taxonomic determinations necessary to trigger rapid response. [*Sirex noctilio* was trapped in New York State in September of 2004. Taxonomic confirmation was not received until February of 2005.] The significant increase in the volume of samples and corresponding target pest diversity have identified the need for personnel dedicated to screening samples, regional and national coordination of survey programs to direct states, the identification of qualified taxonomic and diagnostic sources in the private sector and the creation of identifier positions to serve the states and APHIS.

The CAPS Program is soliciting information from State Survey Coordinators to identify those surveys requiring taxonomic support, the estimated number of samples inclusive of average size in order to assess screening, diagnostic and taxonomic support requirements across the nation.

Screening, diagnostic and taxonomic support are critical in achieving the objective of early pest detection of invasive plant pests and in the initiation of a rapid response to mitigate their impact and in securing any chance of eradication of the pest.

Resolved: By the Central Plant Board at its 82nd annual meeting in Fargo, North Dakota, on February 9, 2006, request the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) collaborate with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to obtain the funding necessary to implement the recommendations contained within the report, *Safeguarding American Plant Resources* (1999):

1. Dedicate a National Identification System (NIS) staff position to coordinate taxonomic support to domestic programs;
2. Establish a National Invasive Plant Pest Information Center (NIPP CEN) with two functional entities: the National Invasive Plant Pest Laboratory (NIPP LAB) and the National Invasive Plant Pest Database (NIPP BASE);

3. Establish the National Invasive Plant Pest Laboratory (NIPP LAB) as a “virtual” clearinghouse for specimens to be identified;
4. Contract with external specialists through cooperative agreements to provide their services in confirming identification of species that are not readily categorized by National Invasive Plant Pest Laboratory staff;
5. Make greater substantial use of highly competent taxonomists and systematists in a variety of institutions.

Distribution:

Dr. Craig Lambert, Acting Under Secretary, USDA

Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA-APHIS

Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

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