

NPB/PPQ Regulated Domestic Pest Program Evaluation Program Charter

Goal

Utilize an objective, science-driven evaluation process to affirm, strengthen, modify, or end regulatory efforts for identified pests. This will be achieved by providing a strong basis for continuing regulatory efforts and phasing out activities that are not cost beneficial or otherwise supported by science nor shared policies.

Background

The National Plant Board and APHIS PPQ have cooperated for decades on many eradication, survey and management efforts. The targets have normally been recent alien invasive species. The most common method of regulation is through establishment of a quarantine. In some cases, the programs have been very successful and short lived (e.g., fruit flies, European grapevine moth). In other cases, success has been achieved only after many decades of efforts (e.g., boll weevil, pink bollworm). Nonetheless, all programs would be strengthened by a periodic review of the scientific underpinnings and other public policy factors influencing the program, performance measures and cost/benefit considerations. Recent experiences suggest that some legacy programs may have a very limited basis or justification for continuation based on less than successful impact of regulatory efforts. The context of limited resources and the need to deal with new, incoming threats suggests that the NPB and PPQ alliance should seek optimization and maximization of existing shared resources.

This program was identified as a priority by the NPB and PPQ as part of the original strategic alliance document. During late 2014 and throughout 2015 the process for evaluation was developed and documented by a work group consisting of NPB and PPQ members. Pine Shoot Beetle was analyzed as the initial trial of the process.

Composition of the Committee

The National Plant Board President and Deputy Administrator of PPQ will appoint members to the committee. At least 4 members of the NPB, each representing one of the regional boards, and at least 3 members of PPQ, each representing one of the core functional areas, will comprise the group. One PPQ member and one NPB will be co-chairs of the committee. The group will meet (either in person or by phone) at least twice annually to review pest program evaluations.

Action Items

- 1) Maintain a consistent transparent process to carry out the goal
- 2) Maintain a comprehensive inventory of existing cooperative domestic regulatory programs

- 3) Determine priorities for evaluation of pests
- 4) Review pest program evaluation reports and produce recommendations to NPB and PPQ leadership for decisions

NPB will:

- 1) Designate work group members.
- 2) Provide comprehensive assessment of program costs.
- 3) Participate in reviewing pest evaluation documents
- 4) Survey members to determine whether to make a recommendation on specific pests, which should include feedback from other agencies, stakeholders and industry within their respective states
- 5) Provide a recommendation to the PPQ Deputy Administrator when appropriate

PPQ will:

- 1) Designate work group members.
- 2) Provide program costs for program evaluation.
- 3) Work with cooperating states to expand the assessment of program costs to adequately represent state investments.
- 4) Provide quantitative analysts, economists, and program managers to assemble required data and conduct impact analyses of different program options. In general, program actions should not be simply a choice between full eradication and doing nothing.

Repository of Documents

All official documents will be housed on the PPQ-NPB PartnerNet Sharepoint Site

Approval

This charter formally authorizes this project based on the information outlined in this charter. Should any of this information change throughout the duration of the project, it shall be discussed by PPQ and NPB management and documented in the project SharePoint site.

Together, PPQ and the NPB agree to work together to utilize our respective federal and state authorities, assets, and expertise to safeguard plant health and enable safe trade.

Approved by:


Osama El-Lissy
PPQ Deputy Administrator


Joe Collins
National Plant Board President

Approval Date: September 9, 2016