



EASTERN PLANT BOARD

*87th Annual Meeting
Proceedings*

**Burlington Hilton
Burlington, Vermont
April 16-19, 2012**

Eastern Plant Board
87th ANNUAL MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Burlington, Vermont

Tuesday
April 17, 2012

Joint Session EPB/CAPS/HIS Updates, Discussion, and Next Steps
<p>Welcome <i>Chuck Ross, VT Secretary of Agriculture</i> <i>Vicki Smith, CT – EPB President</i></p> <p>Set the tone of the meeting; budgets are tight, but the work is valued and there should continue to be a dialogue in which pest detection successes and the relevancy of programs is clarified for those making budgetary decisions.</p>
<p>SANC 101 – NPB’s Systems Approach to Nursery Inspection <i>Carl Schulze, NJ</i></p> <p>SANC is a risk-based certification system that builds upon the current system to further reduce risk of spread of plant pests. Promote a systems approach compatible with the needs of individual states and industry. In light of challenges facing nursery certification: increased volume of trade, more regulated pests, variety of state regulations, reduced state funding. Would reduce the need for load by load inspections. Still a couple of years out from implementation.</p>
<p>Box Blight <i>Vicki Smith & Peter Trenchard, CT AES</i></p> <p>First report from arborist in Fairfield County, CT. Days later a report in Middlesex County. Trace backs failed to determine the source of introduction of the pathogen. In infested nurseries in CT, found thousands of infested plants in every stage of production. Pathogen was isolated from both symptomatic and asymptomatic plants. Found BB in cuttings, in liners, and at the whole plant stage. Actions taken: stop sale orders; voluntary destruction; efforts by growers to cull, segregate plant material and spray fungicides were problematic and resulted in numerous re-inspections and sampling. Extensive outreach. Development of BMPs for nurseries and homeowners. Participation in national working groups. Places where BB showed up were where new material was brought in and planted. There can be extensive co-infection with <i>volutella</i>.</p>
<p>Chrysanthemum White Rust (CWR) <i>Vicki Smith, CT AES</i></p> <p>The mum market has shifted over the last few decades from principally a cut flower market to a garden & pot market; from the greenhouse to outdoor production; from limited control options to good available fungicidal treatments. Shifts in the mum market in the country should cause shifts in the regulatory status of CWR. In 2011 the EPB passed a resolution to APHIS to move to a different regulatory status for CWR, which is currently regulated as requiring eradication. Suggestion to move it to NAPPRA status (not allowed pending plant risk and assessment).</p>
<p>Thousand Canker Disease (TCD) of Walnut <i>Dana Rhodes, PA</i></p> <p>Found TCD in Bucks County, PA in July 2011. Landowner had 20-30 infested trees. Landowner has</p>

multiple wood products industries operating on his property. Walnut twig beetles collected had genetic ties to populations in Chico, CA. Infected trees were removed and destroyed during the coldest week of this year, which was 40F. The beetles were active at that time. In PA, walnut is <1% of the forested timber, but 10% of the value of the timber trade. Firewood is considered regulated unless heat treated and certified. Lindgren funnel traps and a lure developed by Steve Seybold are being used in PA. VA & TN finds are also being surveyed. Future traps are going near sawmills and veneer companies.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Paul Chaloux, APHIS PPQ

For 2013 the biocontrol program will be funded equivalently as in 2012, with an est. \$4.8 mill in funding. Due to budget cuts, the EAB program will: prioritize overall funding scheme, the regulatory framework will re-focus to the outer edges, regulatory staffing will be reduced, survey program will use the Forest Service risk model. Detection methods: 66% of new finds detected in purple prism traps (PPTs), and 34% by other means – which speaks to the value of outreach. The 2012 PPT survey is designed to test FHTET’s risk model and to detect EAB. Needs to be a way that states have some input & can move traps to high risk sites identified by states as well as the FHTET model. “All models are wrong, some are useful.” – Box, 1979. Showed CPHST predictions for geographic spread of EAB. There will be a new purple prism trap for 2013 which will be a slightly different purple color. There is also in development a green multi-funnel trap, which would be re-usable year to year. Spoke on trapping and dendrochronology work conducted by APHIS. Urged looking at the APHIS website at the EAB Program Manual for updates. EAB regulations are focused on keeping EAB in the regulated area. Biocontrol releases have been conducted with 3 parasitoids tested (2 larval parasitoids, 1 egg parasitoid). Spoke on work conducted principally by Dan Herms of The OSU on genetics of “lingering” ash. Spoke on projects involved at looking at mortality of EAB larvae in ash logs submersed in water. This is relevant to usage of ash for cultural purposes for some of the tribes. Purdue U has a website which can calculate EAB costs.

Asian Longhorned Beetle Program Update

Brendon Reardon, APHIS PPQ

In US ALB is generally univoltine. ALB program consists of: exclusion, regulatory measures, survey/detection, host removal & chemical treatments, outreach/education, re-planting non-host trees, and R&D methods development. As per chemical treatments; imidacloprid is really being used to target adult feeding and early instars. As instars move into the heartwood, the chemical doesn’t translocate and larvae don’t come into contact with the chemical. If ALB quarantined areas expand, this increases the impacts to the regulated industries.

ALB-impacted communities:

NJ ~700 infested trees; NY ~ 6,200 trees; MA – likely more than 15 years before infestation was detected. Hoping to have area completely delimited by 2015. Rate of infestation detected over time is decreasing. There is ~ 120 square miles in Worcester which are regulated: in 2010, 165,000 trees received treatment; in 2011, 130,000 trees received treatment; 30,000 trees or so have been removed. Will continue with delimit surveys & removed infested trees as they are found. Bethel, OH: confirmed ALB find on June 17, 2011. Firewood had been moved from the initial site, and infested trees were also found at the location to which the firewood was moved. As of the meeting: 101,000 host trees were surveyed, 7,600 infested trees were detected, and 6,300 trees were removed and chipped. Challenges in OH include a winter with warm, wet & muddy conditions. Use of equipment in these conditions has made property damage an issue. A technical working group is evaluating several control tactics.

Wednesday
April 18, 2012

View from the National Plant Board

Mike Cooper, ID - NPB President

Cooperative agreements between APHIS and states: BRS Pilot Inspection Program: \$35,000; Tracking Technology: \$208,000; SANC: \$155,000; Safeguarding: \$272,000.

Issues before the NPB: 1) budgets, both state and federal; 2) SANC; 3) LBAM – implementation of harmonization plan with deregulation only at the national level; 4) EAB; 5) Boxwood blight; 6) CAPS program and funding; 7) CWR; 8) *P. ramorum* pre-notifications; 9) Farm Bill funds and projects; 10) State risk model; 11) State to state emergency response, found on the members only section of the NPB website; 12) USDA modernization; 13) Federal pre-emption; 14) IPHIS; 15) IES backlog; 16) iPIPE pest data collection systems; 17) Ug99 – a wheat disease in Africa and the Middle East that could have potential impacts for US production; 18) International pest prevention convention; 19) Federal register review and comments.

View from the PPQ Eastern Region

Vic Harabin, APHIS PPQ

Big changes in PPQ personnel on a national level in the last year, with 3 of the 7 senior leaders in PPQ retiring. A new hire is Osama El-Lissy. Several APHIS staff have accepted buyout packages. 2013 funding is predicated on the President's budget which is likely optimistic. In FY 2012, 38% of funding came from user fees, and 62% of funding from appropriations. User fees are going up. Individual line items in the budget have been consolidated into larger categories.

Customs and Border Protection Overview from the Ports

Dianna Bowman, CBP

Multiple reports at interceptions at some of the ports.

APHIS Modernization – What does it mean to the EPB?

Paula Henstridge, APHIS PPQ

What is modernization? In a period of unprecedented change for APHIS. Elimination of programs, 41% reduction in gypsy moth funding, 74% reduction in EAB funding. At a cusp of cultural transformation in looking beyond the budget and personnel, at a time to create sustainability in APHIS. APHIS needs to reinvent itself, to do business in a different way, to take advantage of collaboration and cross training. CPHST is looking at its core functions. A number of offices have been consolidated or closed. A second round of buyouts is occurring, and there is a significant loss of institutional knowledge associated with these buyouts. There are agency-wide hiring controls in place. Programs must work creatively and collaboratively to accomplish missions in order to manage programs with fewer people. In the Eastern region, there are currently about 1300 positions with over 100 vacancies which will not be refilled. A goal of the budget cutting exercise is to conserve money to still do product delivery. When a SPHD retires or resigns, APHIS is obligated to determine if an office consolidation is possible. It is a false assumption that the user fee is an endless supply of money. On May 9-10th, there will be a meeting regarding modernization.

APHIS Investigative Enforcement Services Streamlining

Paula Henstridge, APHIS PPQ

Main question: how many violations are willful, and will action result in changes in behavior? PPQ &

CBP have increased the numbers of violations, but due to reduced manpower, and the length of time to clear a case will need to reduce the caseload. PPQ & CBP have been working with IES to look at the ability to document for each case, the severity of the offense, the age of the case, whether or not it is associated with an entity with a history of non-compliance with APHIS PPQ. Focus on the quality of the violations, not the quantity. Hope that the most serious cases that pose the greatest risk to agriculture and natural resources are the ones that are recommended for formal enforcement actions. Increased documentation of violations and conversations. Enforcement has to be backed up by the regulations. Issues that are currently being closed, when they are closed, SPHDs will communicate with SPROs. Recommended *The Regulatory Craft* by Malcolm Sparrow as a way to think about using enforcement judiciously and sparingly.

Lessons Learned: Social Media Meets ALB

Patty Douglass, APHIS PPQ

Concerning the use of social media by the public in OH following the ALB find. There is both a Facebook site and a website for a vocal minority regarding the handling of this ALB site. It is another thing for APHIS to consider as part of its response program. The vocal minority has very effectively used social media to push its agenda, it did fundraising to retain an attorney, and holds public meetings. This group has been really good at stirring the pot. Things to consider: we may not necessarily be able to control the message in the face of social media; consider the best way to get the message out; need to find supportive industries to help garner support; explain the variations that have been used in other locations for a response, and explain why the current response was chosen; engage in dialogue. A lesson learned – listen a little more, and find out from the public what their concerns are. Learn from a bad experience, regroup, and determine how to redress the concern.

Vermont 1st Detectors Program

Caitlin Cusack, University of Vermont Extension

BMPs for citizen science projects design and development: collaborate with stakeholders to broaden the geographic scope and capacity to reach organizational objectives; clearly define program goals and objectives with stakeholders; provide citizen scientists training by local scientists and natural resource professionals; ensure accurate data for successful invasive species management. Roles for volunteers: doing screening, outreach and education through: 1) disseminate information and forest health updates; 2) assist with pest screening; 3) recruit volunteers and help coordinate pest surveys; 4) assist communities in preparing for and responding to EAB. VTinvasives.org is a very interactive webpage that allows trained volunteers the ability to create pages. Distribution of first detector kits. Web form for first detectors to send in unknown pests to one of the diagnostic labs. There are on-line training modules, and the volunteers can report their activity, developing metrics. 30% of the citizen volunteers are arborists. There are also tree wardens, stewards, and other community leaders. According to metrics in VT, there have been 85 h of survey, 50 h of outreach and education, 12 h of screening, 4 h of talking to town officials. Because of this program, HWA was found in 2 new towns in Windham County.

USFS Report: Forest Health Program

Terry Miller, USFS, Durham Field Office

The National Budget Pictures: in FY2011 → \$136,000,000

FY2012 → \$112,000,000 (18% reduction)

FY2013 → President's budget request for \$112,000,000

Forest Health (Federal lands) = \$9,967,000 which is a 15% reduction from 2011

Forest Health (cooperative) = \$13,175,000 which is a 17% reduction from 2011

Core funding to the States has been flat.

Competitive grants: FY2011 →\$14,000,000, FY2012 →\$9-10,000,000

FY2013 – time to do more with less, by leveraging collaborations, will be looking at buyouts and staff reductions.

Programs: ALB – working independently with APHIS, looking at spread of ALB into open forests, where it might move faster than initially thought, assisting states with restoration side of things. There has been some funding in the past.

EAB – helping states ramp up preparedness, doing ICS exercises, technical support on what to do when EAB arrives.

HWA – working with states on a state by state basis.

CARP funds – a competitive process, with forest health redesign starting in 2007; This was largely driven by Farm Bill. States should have a State Forest Action Plan, which can be found at

www.forestactionplans.org

NAASF Update

Steve Koehn, MD State Forester

Reduced budgets demand a closer coordination of activities. Likely will see a decrease in the regulatory actions. State Departments of Agriculture should have been invited to participate in the development of the State Forest Health Action Plan. There is a new line item in State & Private Forestry Money to do landscape scale restoration, this would be a competitive process. There needs to be better communication with the USFS, APHIS, NPB, and State Depts. of Agriculture. Each state should also have a forest health matrix. Looking at forest health in the urban environment, disaster planning. In dealing with invasive forest pests, trying to take a page from forest fire colleagues, and create a compact between states to assist with responses.

Plum Pox Programs in Canada and U.S.

Margaret Kelly, NY

PPV is a North American problem. There is an infestation along Lake Ontario in peaches near to Rochester. Believe introduction was through budwood fro specific varieties. It can also be spread by aphids. In 2010, 235,000+ samples were taken, in 2011, 161,000+; in 2012 240,000+ samples are intended. Where found, there will be a tree removal within a 50 m buffer of the infected tree. USDA will compensate growers up to 500 m. There has been excellent grower cooperation.

Thursday

April 19, 2012

Farm Bill Update

Matt Royer, APHIS PPQ

Received \$97,000,000 worth of suggestions. There were 592 potential projects, 226 of which were renewals/continued projects.

This is the 4th year of implementing 10201 funds. There was a new on-line suggestion process, with numerous public webinars, and reviewers were able to use Metastorm to input a review. There will be funding for about 330 projects. Expect spending plan to be released in April, with money hopefully released before June. There needs to be wider feedback on the process. The Region will notify SPHDs and SPROs of approved projects.

University of VT, Entomopathogens

Dr. Margaret Skinner, Entomology Research Laboratory, University of Vermont

Discussion of system using banker plants, and unique entomopathogens for control of thrips in greenhouses.

EPB Members on NPB Committees Updates

Various

- *BRS* committee has had little new activity to report
- *Export services* (Sarah), ME, including PexD, changes to PCIT, changes to electronic signatures, ACO re-accreditation training available on-line, official reports on treatment policy, discussion of risk-based inspections for low risk commodities and companies that export repeatedly rather than load by load inspections, quality of field inspection reports
- *NCC* (Piera) committee has been dominated by discussion on potential budget cuts and how best to describe the activities of the program to those that might be making funding choices. Tangential conversations have included the importance of the accuracy of the J3, which will exist as a fillable form with drop-down selections in the future; developing metrics associated with infrastructure funding; and how or if it might be possible to leverage “citizen scientists”
- Carl Schulze – *10201 National Clean plant network*, review funding proposals and determine what gets funded and for how much, only have about 20 to 25 proposals; advisory council on NPDN network; co-chair of SANC committee
- Vickie Smith – *new pest advisory group* representative – opinions about new pests and diseases, DEEP pest lists
- Jeff Brothers, DE – *Permitting board of advisors*.
- Kevin King -*10201 Farm Bill planning committee*
- Ann Gibbs – *invasive species advisory committee* provides suggestions on national invasive species awareness plan, national species awareness week; white papers including marine bio-invasions, climate change, green industry (and jobs), 3 in works on testing protocols for environmental DNA, harvest incentives, e-commerce; www.invasivespecies.gov, (will need a new rep put forward in June), national firewood task force (no longer active committee, provided recommendations to APHIS in 2010), national seed health program review, seed potato MOU, continental dialogue
- Carol Holko – *IPHIS executive steering committee* – how to staff the help desk at IPHIS; backing off a little from the grandiose plans; discussion about level of data sharing as to who gets to look at what data; provide guidance on alignment of resources, schedules of delivery for IPHIS
- *LBAM* – Dana Rhodes – met in late Feb in Riverdale to discuss harmonization plan for LBAM, funding cuts; immediate need to pull together and develop a plan; develop outreach materials for industry and regulators to consolidate message and explain change in the plan;
- Dick Bean – *standing committee for Pest Compact* – no request for activity for a year and a half; last request was for an operation in Texas
- NPB website – Carol Holko – 2011 had 60,000 unique visitors, 110,000 visits; 366,000 pages viewed; 80% of visitors stayed less than 30 sec; Region lead-in page has had the most visits; 8,652 went to regional page as the first page with the Central region most popular with 2,614 hits. Laws page is very popular as well. 1,802 visits. Principally downloading the state summaries as downloads. #1 entry site is home page. #1 exit page is SPB. #2 exit is laws. Traffic is heaviest in Feb/March. Internet Explorer – 67% of share, Firefox – 10%, Chrome – 6.7%, Safari – 6.3%. Have a Twitter account and Facebook account. Trying to stay current with technology. At 750 MB, and are upgrading to 100 GB.
- A concern was raised that APHIS doing less with less would result in states doing more. Vic Harabin was asked if there was any information on the Pest Advisory Group. Mike Cooper indicated that information should be forthcoming in the next several months.

HIS Report

Horticultural Inspection Society, Jeff Brothers, DE, VP

- Productive meeting at a great location; thanks to the State of Vermont. Impressive presentations and discussions on IES, spotted wing drosophila, boxwood blight, SANC, Interstate inspection plans, introduction to audit based training –USDA; Delaware’s E-nursery program Joint presentations with CAPS; what pests are being detected at ports –CBP; canine detection and pest detection
- Most states were present, with only Massachusetts and Rhode Island not represented; increase over last year when only 9 states were present (2011) (8-2010) (5-2009)(8-2008); 14 members present this year. There was a visitor from MN that sat in on the meeting.

Resolutions:

- 1) Appreciation of the Eastern Chapter of the Horticultural Inspection Society at its 38th annual meeting recognizes the EPB for their continued support.
- 2) The Eastern Plant Board request that USDA/APHIS review their pest assessment processes to help prevent future unwanted plant pathogen introductions.
- 3) The EPB consider holding the combined Plant Board/Horticultural Inspection Society meeting at an earlier date.

Carl Carlson Award nominee – Galen Ettinger (NJ)

Distinguished service award – Eric Ewing

CAPS Report

Nancy Richwine, SSC for Pennsylvania –

- Nominated Saul Vaiciunas from NJ to be new SSC representative from EPB to CAPS committee.
- Began with roundtable discussion about activities from last year and plans for the next year of survey.
- Important that the PSS were there at the meeting to provide both expertise and a federal view.
- Heard from Susan Schechter from NAPIS about continued process improvement. NAPIS is developing into a hands-on tool. Pest Tracker is also continuing to evolve.
- Face to face interactions are important to moving the program forward, and strengthen the cooperative nature of the program, as well as to provide resources and guidance to people new into their positions.
- Discussion about news of potential budget cuts. In EPB 5 SSCs are **totally** funded by CAPS and 5 **partially** funded by CAPS. Budget cuts that no longer support SSCs will mean that states will not be able to participate in CAPS, which would limit the ability of states to participate in Farm Bill funded projects as well. SSC is a pivotal position for both pest survey and emergency response.
- CAPSopaedia is a new resource to provide a toolbox or a one-stop shop that anyone can use when conducting surveys or looking for information about CAPS, a place to post tools that people can use from spreadsheets to taxonomic tools, etc.
- Carl Schulze thanked Nancy Richwine for service to the National CAPS committee for the EPB.