



EASTERN PLANT BOARD

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2015 Annual Meeting
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

The Eastern Plant Board believes the need for clear and timely communications is imperative to the development of programs and policies which further the safeguarding of agriculture in the United States. Communication is essential between federal, state, and tribal governments, and other cooperators. Risks associated with the lack of clear notifications regarding pests of concerns to states, whether they are of federal concern or not, jeopardize agricultural industries throughout the nation. The lack of communication regarding funding issues for programs leaves many states unable to appropriately plan, staff, and complete survey projects which have been identified by state and federal partners as important to detection and protection of agriculture which may leave some states with unplanned financial burdens. Timely communication of pest introductions, funding shortfalls, and program management changes will strengthen the commitment to the Strategic Alliance Document 2014 pledged by USDA APHIS PPQ and NPB members in promoting a partnership to safeguard plant health and safe trade within the United States.

WHEREAS Communication is essential for the success of a working partnership.

WHEREAS Timely notification of federal fund awards or shortfalls will allow states to successfully plan and implement survey programs.

WHEREAS States best understand pest issues of agricultural and forest based industries within their own state.

WHEREAS Concurrent notification to SPHDs and SPROs of pest information and corresponding activities is critical to the Plant Board-APHIS partnership.

WHEREAS USDA APHIS PPQ and NPB members have agreed to work together to utilize our federal and state authorities, assets and expertise to safeguard plant health and enable safe trade, as described in the Strategic Alliance Document of November, 2014.

RESOLVED by the membership of the Eastern Plant Board at its 90th annual meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on April 9, 2015, that APHIS commit to:

- Clear and timely communication with SPROs and SPHDs regarding identification of pest concerns which may enter their state;

- Timely communication regarding funding as it affects planning, hiring, and implementation of successful detection and protection of agriculture;
- Promoting the Strategic Alliance Document to work together and utilize federal and state authorities, assets and expertise to safeguard plant health and enable safe trade; and
- Assisting new and/or temporary program managers to master a clear understanding of the importance of states' working knowledge of pest threats for the industries of agriculture and forestry within their states.

Distribution:

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