



Southern Plant Board

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Resolution No. 3

STREAMLINING REPORTING ON COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS Plant protection efforts funded through cooperative agreements are of great importance to federal, state, local municipalities and the general public. USDA APHIS PPQ has become increasingly reliant on the efforts of cooperators to accomplish plant protection objectives.

WHEREAS Cooperators are tasked with finding a greater number and variety of funding sources to finance their objective of protecting agricultural and forest resources from an increasing number of plant health threats. Cooperators appreciate and rely heavily on resources made available through Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey (CAPS) and Farm Bill cooperative agreement allocations. Cooperators acknowledge the difficulties USDA APHIS PPQ faces in administering these agreements and the scrutiny to which the agreements are subjected.

WHEREAS Available USDA APHIS PPQ Field Operations and state cooperator personnel resources are becoming increasingly strained, reducing time available for administrative responsibilities, even as USDA APHIS PPQ requires greater accounting and reporting obligations in cooperative agreements.

RESOLVED The SPB requests USDA APHIS PPQ consider:

- Streamlining reporting requirements by allowing cooperators to provide a single annual report containing all relevant CAPS and/or Farm Bill project results, and allowing cooperators to bundle semi-annual and final financial reports for all cooperative agreements;
- Implementing an electronic reporting protocol to reduce hard copy reporting;
- Multi-year cooperative agreements with similar single result and financial report requirements applicable to the full term of the agreement.

Distribution:

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