



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection and
Quarantine

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August 9, 2017

Collin Wamsley
President, Central Plant Board
Plant Industries Division
Missouri Department of Agriculture
P. O. Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630

Dear Mr. Wamsley:

Thank you for writing to me about the Central Plant Board's concerns regarding Plant Protection and Quarantine's (PPQ) National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program meeting. PPQ would like to thank the Central Plant Board and all the member states for the continued support of the CAPS Program. The CAPS Program is a model of the collaborative effort between PPQ and the states for the surveillance and early detection of pests of regulatory significance.

We acknowledge the desire of the Central Plant Board to hold a regular National CAPS Program meeting. PPQ also recognizes the importance and benefits of the CAPS Program. The meetings provide workshops, trainings, and networking opportunities that enhance operational efficiencies and coordination for early pest detection survey activities. The meetings are also valuable for improving coordination and building stronger working relationships among PPQ and its collaborators.

PPQ commits to actively investigate opportunities to support a National CAPS Meeting in the near future. We welcome further discussions with the Central Plant Board, and the National Plant Board as a whole, to explore creative approaches that will bring the CAPS Program community together to discuss current issues and topics of mutual interest and to develop strategies that will continue the CAPS Program's success. PPQ also acknowledges the need for advanced commitment to the meeting, so that the states can plan for attendance and travel expenses in their pest detection cooperative agreements.

We greatly appreciate the Central Plant Board's collaboration and support for the CAPS Program. Our joint efforts will continue to develop the CAPS Program into a very successful and nationally recognized program for early pest detection and surveillance activities. Please feel free to call or write me again on this or any other topic of concern.

Sincerely,

Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine