For over seventy years the federal Black Stem Rust (BSR) Regulation has assisted in the control of BSR and increased the profitability of the small grain industries in the United States. This regulation establishes a multi-state regulated area, provides for testing and identification of resistant cultivars, establishes production and certification requirements for barberry and mahonia, and controls the interstate and international movement of these species.

Through the cooperative efforts of state departments of agriculture, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, and USDA-ARS, this regulation has operated to protect the wheat and other small grain crops with no financial support from the small grain industries. New strains and genotypes of grain rusts, including ug-99, continue to emerge and potentially threaten the small grain industries.

RESOLVED, by the Central Plant Board at its 85th annual meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, March 5, 2009, requests that USDA-APHIS-PPQ evaluate the effectiveness of the current BSR regulation, and consider amendments to embrace new information and technologies to better test and identify BSR resistant cultivars of barberry and mahonia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USDA consider new revenue streams including the grain industry support to cover the ongoing costs of this program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USDA collaborate with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to develop a harmonized agreement that encourages uniform testing of barberry and mahonia, access for all resistant varieties, and free movement of certified materials between both countries.

Distribution:

Rebecca Bech, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Greg Stubbings, Director, Plant Health Division, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Philip Berger, Director, USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST
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