USDA APHIS PPQ has received significant funding in the 2008 Farm Bill for Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention. State Departments of Agriculture are often the first and front line defense against the establishment and spread of dangerous and harmful invasive and exotic species that threaten agriculture, forests and the environment. There is a lack of coordinated and consistent training for state plant protection personnel that would ensure uniformity and a high level of professional expertise and knowledge from state to state.

Resolved: By the Central Plant Board at its 85th annual meeting in Des Moines, Iowa on March 5, requests that USDA APHIS develop and fully implement a permanent program for instruction of state inspectors, professional staff, supervisors and managers.

Be it Further Resolved, that USDA APHIS focus training on a variety of subjects and issues that will strengthen and improve state plant protection programs, including enforcement training and documentation, ICS emergency training, federal quarantine process, compliance agreements, pest biology and management strategies, pest detection methods, supervisor training, and other programs that will enhance and benefit state programs.

Be it Further Resolved, that USDA APHIS allocate a minimum of $5 million annually for this purpose and that USDA APHIS consult with USEPA for obtaining a template or a model on how such a training program could be developed and implemented.

Distribution:

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