



THE CENTRAL PLANT BOARD

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Resolution No. 4 Support for a National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Meeting

The Central Plant Board (CPB) strongly supports the holding of a National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) meeting. The CPB believes such a meeting supports the mission of the CAPS program to detect exotic plant pests and diseases of regulatory significance to federal, state and tribal governments and other cooperators. The CAPS program is highly important to states, providing much needed funding to conduct and coordinate surveys for pests of national concern. Bringing together all cooperators in this program at a national meeting is vital to the long term development and continued health of the program by facilitating communication and cooperation among participants.

The CAPS Program is a model federal-state partnership and an important part of each state's pest response program. Awareness of national and regional plant pest concerns is enhanced through workshops and direct meetings like those that occur at the National CAPS Meeting, the last of which occurred in 2010. Funding for the National CAPS Meeting is critical to states but has been insecure for several years, resulting in confusion among cooperators as to whether or not USDA APHIS PPQ truly supports the National CAPS Program. Program funding reductions combined with lack of clear support from USDA APHIS PPQ administration for such a meeting has caused some states to remove attendance at a national meeting from their work plans. States may lack funding to send their State Survey Coordinator and State Plant Regulatory Official to a National CAPS Meeting unless included as part of the CAPS work plan budget.

RESOLVED: By the Central Plant Board at its 90th annual meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota on May 8, 2014 that USDA APHIS PPQ commit to funding a National CAPS Meeting at least every other year, and that this commitment be made in advance of the work plan submission process, or allow amendments to state's work plans to facilitate attendance by State Plant Regulatory Officials and State Survey Coordinators.

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