

**SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD**

**April 10-13, 2005**

**St. Augustine, Florida**

**RESOLUTION # 6**

**Emerging Plant Pests and Pest Detection**

The survey, detection and eradication or control of invasive non-indigenous plant pests and diseases will continue to challenge the abilities of USDA-APHIS and state cooperators to secure the necessary funding for the mandated safeguarding of American plant resources. Present funding at the federal level is inadequate to support existing eradication and control initiatives. Major control initiatives directed at Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, citrus canker, and *Phytophthora ramorum* blight are ongoing. All of these are funded with the Emerging Plant Pests budget line item. The funding needed to address these pests totals \$175,000,000. The total funding available during FY05 is only \$101,755,000. In order for eradication efforts to be successful, it is imperative that full, reliable and continuous funding be made available to the partner agencies involved in this process.

Recent increases in federal support for enhanced domestic surveillance through Homeland Security allocation and the Pest Detection Initiative have focused on infrastructure development. Expanding world trade and the threat of bio-terrorism have increased the risk of destructive insects, diseases, nematodes and weeds being introduced into the United States. Improving pest detection and response capabilities to meet the increasing challenges of new pest introductions requires adequate funding. The funding needed to accomplish this totals \$100,000,000.

**Resolved:** The Southern Plant Board, at its annual meeting held in St. Augustine, Florida on April 13, 2005, urges USDA and the office of Management and Budget to fully fund early detection and rapid response activities in order to prevent new agricultural pests from becoming established in the United States.

**Be It Further Resolved:** Citing the catastrophic losses to U.S. agriculture and the environment in the billions of dollars resulting from the inability to sustain federal support and funding for existing plant pest and disease control programs and obtain new funds for the enhancement of existing systems of pest detection and intervention, urges that:

1. Congress appropriate \$175 million to fully fund USDA-APHIS-PPQ's Emerging Plant Pests line item to eliminate the need for Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) emergency funding releases for these specific programs.
2. Congress increase the appropriation for the Pest Detection line item to \$100 million for the early detection of new pests and timely emergency response.

**Motion: Shashank Nilakhe**  
**Seconded by: Richard Gaskalla**

**Distribution:**

Michael Johannes, Secretary, USDA

Bill Hawks, Under Secretary, USDA

Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA-APHIS

Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Rick Kirchhoff, CEO, NASDA

Gus Douglass, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA

Dr. Robert Mangold, Director, USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection

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