

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2006-17
April 25, 2006

SUBJECT: Selection of New State Plant Health Director for Pennsylvania

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

I am pleased to announce that Ms. Coanne O'Hern will be the new State Plant Health Director for Pennsylvania effective June 11, 2006. Ms. O'Hern is being reassigned from her current position as National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Coordinator.

Prior to joining Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), she was a grain inspector for the Federal Grain Inspection Service. She began her career with PPQ at the Port of Los Angeles, originally at the Harbor area and then transferring to Los Angeles International Airport. After 3 years in Los Angeles, Coanne moved to Pennsylvania as a Domestic PPQ Officer. Some of her duties included gypsy moth regulatory work, exotic pest surveys, foreign aircraft clearance, Chilean fruit inspections/fumigations at Philadelphia and Wilmington, and inspection and certification of products for export and soil lab inspections. She then moved to PPQ headquarters as a staff officer where she has worked on a variety of programs including boll weevil, pink bollworm, corn cyst nematode, New Pest Advisory Group, gypsy moth, Asian gypsy moth, and pine shoot beetle.

Coanne has participated on-site in several Medfly emergency programs in the past and set up the contingency emergency program for testing wheat at export elevators when Karnal bunt was first detected in the United States. She has experience in environmental monitoring, as well as in treatment and survey activities. She has been in the position as the National Survey Coordinator since 2001. This responsibility also includes being the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) coordinator, manager of the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) database located at Purdue University and working with each state regulatory agency and other Federal agencies in survey and detection programs.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. O'Hern to the Eastern Region and her new duties as State Plant Health Director.

/s/ Richard L. Dunkle

Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine