

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2006-51  
December 4, 2006

SUBJECT: Appointment of the Pest Detection Director

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Matthew Royer was selected to serve as the National Pest Detection Director for the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program's Emergency and Domestic Programs (EDP) staff. Dr. Royer will assume this new role while maintaining his current position as Associate Director of EDP. This appointment became effective on November 12, 2006.

Dr. Royer is a 17-year veteran of APHIS-PPQ. In that time, he has served in several posts that encompassed a broad range on plant health responsibilities. Dr. Royer led several plant pest risk analyses, including one that became an internationally-adopted standard. He also oversaw plant pest permits and environmental assessments for biological control, managed a national system for identifying plant pests intercepted at ports-of-entry, and led the National Plant Germplasm Quarantine Center. In addition, Dr. Royer played a critical role in establishing PPQ'S Center for Plant Health Science and Technology in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he served as its Interim Director.

More recently, Dr. Royer served with distinction as the National Program Manager on two, high-profile, USDA's pest programs, the *Ralstonia (solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2) and the Soybean Rust Programs. Both programs, which involved considerable coordination throughout PPQ and with stakeholders, were highly acclaimed and earned the USDA Secretary's Honor Award.

Prior to his career with APHIS, Dr. Royer served as a Research Scientist for six years with the Foreign Disease - Weed Science Research Unit of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. There, he was responsible for conducting research on foreign plant diseases inside containment greenhouses and laboratories. He is credited with creating a database of plant pest threats and assessing the risk that foreign plant diseases such as Karnal bunt and soybean rust posed to the United States.

Dr. Royer is a 1982 graduate of Pennsylvania State University, with a Doctorate in Plant Pathology, emphasizing quantitative epidemiology and genetics.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Royer to his new position.

**/s/ Richard L. Dunkle**

Richard L. Dunkle  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine