



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection and
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Programs

Pest Detection &
Emergency
Programs

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To the CAPS Community:

The Pest Detection Management Team (PDMT) and the National CAPS Committee (NCC) and would like to announce the publication of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) [2016 National Pest Surveillance Guidelines](#). The National Pest Surveillance Guidelines can be found on the [CAPS Resource & Collaboration web site](#) under the Guidelines link in the CAPS ribbon on the left-hand side of the page or directly from the link above.

The 2016 Guidelines retain the focus, format, policy, and philosophy of the previous Guidelines. The Guidelines are centered on the 'bundled survey' concept for efficiency and economy of survey. The emphasis is on surveys based not only on commodities, but also environments, habitats, industries, businesses, and the continuum along pest introduction pathways. The State CAPS Committees are charged with creating bundled surveys that best fit the pest risk, agriculture, and environment of their state or region in their efforts of early detection of exotic pests. A pathway approach to planning and conducting surveys is strongly encouraged.

The CAPS Program is continually evolving. Ideas, suggestions, and comments from the National CAPS Committee and their constituencies and stakeholders throughout the year have been discussed and incorporated into this year's Guidelines. Some changes from the 2015 Guidelines consist of small clarifications, others may involve a larger shift in the way we collect, manage, and report data.

These Guidelines pertain to surveys conducted by state cooperators and PPQ personnel funded through the Pest Detection line item.

Some highlights to the 2016 National Pest Surveillance Guidelines are:

- The name of the Guidelines has been changed from National Survey Guidelines, to National Pest Surveillance Guidelines. This change was made for better alignment with language found in international standards, e.g., ISPM 6: Guidelines for Surveillance, and to encompass the early pest detection mission. Likewise, the CAPS Approved Methods (CAMs) have been renamed the Approved Methods for Pest Surveillance (AMPS) for the same reasons.
- States should plan on 2015 funding amount for planning 2016 surveys.

- The pest list for the Tropical Hosts Commodity-based Survey Manual is available for 2016. The Introduction and pest datasheets will be available by late summer 2016.
- Surveys have been split between CAPS and Farm Bill for 2016 as in previous years. Asian Defoliators and Grape, Palm, Solanaceous, and Stone Fruit Commodity Surveys, and other surveys based on specialty crops will not be offered through CAPS for 2016 funding. These surveys should be requested for Farm Bill funding.
- New Infrastructure and Survey work plan templates are available for 2016, and their use is required. Each state will submit separate Infrastructure and Survey work and financial plans.
- New for 2016, states will have flexibility to combine their Pest Detection Surveys into one submitted work and financial plan, or to submit separate work plans for each Survey. Individual states will determine which options work best for them based on their state financial and accounting systems and processes. This guidance is only for Pest Detection funding, and only for Survey.
- The Survey Summary Form will be completed online on the [CAPS Resource & Collaboration site](#) as in previous years. The online Survey Summary Form must be completed when the work plans are submitted to the SPHD's office. No work plans will be reviewed or approved without a completed Survey Summary Form. Only Pest Detection-funded surveys should be entered.
- There will be new fields in the Survey Summary Form for CAPS and PPQ Pest Detection-funded surveys. States will be asked to indicate the specific hosts, commodities, environments, or habitats in which they plan to conduct surveys. This is for the Survey Summary Form only and is not a new NAPIS data entry requirement.
- All work plans and accomplishment reports should be submitted via the PPQ SharePoint site as in previous years. See the Guidelines document for detailed information or contact the National Operations Manager.
- All CAPS survey data will be entered into NAPIS for the 2016 field season. For 2016, additional data entry fields (Trap and Lure) will be required. More information will be available later in the year.
- The Appendices in previous versions of the Guidelines have been removed in favor of stand-alone documents. The former Appendices have become a standard part of the CAPS and Pest Detection Program and are not specifically tied to the Guidelines.

However, these documents are referenced in the Guidelines and can be obtained by following the various links in the Guidelines document, or by navigating to the Guidelines page on the CAPS R&C website. Additionally, a separate page titled Resources is available. This page will always contain links to the most up-to-date documents.

If you have any questions regarding the 2016 National Pest Surveillance Guidelines, feel free to discuss the matter with your representative on the NCC. The Pest Detection Management Team also is available to answer any questions.

If you have any concerns or suggestions on how to improve the CAPS program, please contact the National Survey Coordinator, Dr. John Bowers at (301) 851-2087, by email at John.Bowers@aphis.usda.gov; the National Operations Manager for Pest Detection, Dr. Brian Kopper at (919) 855-7318, by email at Brian.J.Kopper@aphis.usda.gov; or The Director of CAPS Support in CPHST, Dr. Rick Zink at 970-490-4472, by email at Richard.T.Zink@aphis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

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National Survey Coordinator
National Policy Manager -
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cc: Brian Kopper – Field Operations
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National CAPS Committee