



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection and
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Plant Health
Programs

Pest Detection &
Emergency
Programs

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
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April 22, 2016

To the CAPS Community:

The Pest Detection Management Team (PDMT) and the National CAPS Committee (NCC) would like to announce the publication of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) [2017 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 2017 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 2016 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 (and to a certain extent, those surveys funded through the Farm Bill Goal 1 Survey – National Priority Surveys).

Some highlights to the 2017 National Pest Surveillance Guidelines are:

- States should plan on 2016 funding amount for planning 2017 surveys.
- Surveys have been split between CAPS and Farm Bill for 2017 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 2017 funding. These surveys should be requested for Farm Bill funding.

- 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. An example can be found on the 2017 Guidelines page.
- All work plans and accomplishment reports should be submitted via the PPQ SharePoint site as in previous years. APHIS is scheduled to transition to the ezFedGrants system (formerly called Grantor) for the complete administration of cooperative agreements around October 1, 2016. However, work and financial plans are due mid-August before ezFedGrants is implemented. Therefore the CAPS Program will use the same submission process as in previous years. See the Guidelines document for detailed information or contact the National Operations Manager.
- The Tropical Hosts Commodity-based Survey Reference and pest datasheets are all available for 2017.
- A new pest prioritization model and resulting pest list is available for 2017. The Objective Prioritization of Exotic Pests (OPEP) is a probability model that predicts the impact that a pest may have if established in the U.S. More information can be found in the Pest Assessment Process document. The new OPEP list replaces the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) Prioritized Pest List.
- The Additional Pests of Concern List has been reinstated. However, the definition has changed. This list now refers to pests that were evaluated using the Objective Prioritization of Exotic Pests (OPEP) model but did not score high enough to be placed on the Pests of Economic and Environmental Importance List. See the document Pest Prioritization Process for additional information.
- A new and updated Host Matrix file has been developed. This replaces the host matrix that was part of the AHP pest list in previous years. More detail can be found in the Introduction to the Host Matrix document.
- Many additions, deletions, and name changes were made to the commodity and taxon pest lists. These changes can be found in the Summary of Pest List Changes.
- The Approved Methodology for Pest Surveillance (AMPS) has been updated for 2017.
- Priority Pest List as an Excel file is available to help with survey planning efforts.

- All CAPS survey data will be entered into NAPIS for the 2017 field season as in previous years.

If you have any questions regarding the 2017 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John H. Bowers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John H. Bowers, PhD
National Survey Coordinator
National Policy Manager -
Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey

cc: Brian Kopper – Field Operations
Rick Zink – Science & Technology
National CAPS Committee