

Guidance for Bundling Pests that are Removed from the Priority Pest List

Each year, S&T CAPS Support evaluates and updates the Priority Pest List for CAPS and Plant Protection Act 7721 Goal 1 early detection surveys. The Objective Prioritization of Exotic Pests (OPEP) Impact Assessment model and the Survey and Identification/Diagnostic Feasibility Assessment (Feasibility Assessment; formerly called Post-assessment) are used to objectively review the potential impacts of a pest and the feasibility of survey and identification, respectively. Over the past few years, S&T has used this process to evaluate the pests added to the Priority Pest List prior to the development of the Impact Assessment model and the Feasibility Assessment. If a current Priority Pest is predicted to cause low impacts or lacks effective survey and/or identification/diagnostic methods, it will be removed from the Priority Pest List. In addition, if a pest is federally deregulated or established in the contiguous United States, it will also be removed from the Priority Pest List. The following is guidance on whether or not these pests are suitable for bundling into CAPS and Plant Protection Act 7721 Goal 1 surveys.

1. Federally deregulated pests

- If effective survey and identification/diagnostic methods are available, the pest may be bundled.
- If the pest does not have an effective survey or identification/diagnostic method, then the pest **should not** be bundled.

2. Pests without effective survey or identification/diagnostic methods

- If the pest was removed from the Priority Pest List because it does not have an effective survey or identification/diagnostic method, then the pest **should not** be bundled.

The pests predicted to cause high impact are a priority for research and methods development. Once effective methods are available, the pest will return to the Priority Pest List.

3. Current Priority Pests predicted to cause low or impact

- These organisms were added to the Priority Pest List before the Impact Assessment was adopted for prioritizing pests. The pests have been evaluated by the Impact Assessment are predicted to cause low impact.
- It is strongly encouraged that low impact pests not be bundled into surveys. If this were a new pest suggestion, the pest would not be added to the list.
- If a pest in this category is bundled into a survey, the National Operations Manager for Pest Detection will reach out to the cooperator to ensure there are specific reasons why this pest should be bundled (trade concerns, etc.).

The Summary of Pest List Changes document is included in the National Pest Surveillance Guidelines each year. The summary provides information about the status of priority pests in 2020 and states whether they are appropriate for bundling. For pests removed prior to 2020, see [Bundling Former Priority Pests](#). This information is also distributed to the National CAPS Committee and Pest Survey Specialists via monthly calls. When preparing work plans, please

refer to Summary of Pest List Changes document. If pests that are identified as “not approved for bundling” are included in work plans, the National Operations Manager for Pest Detection will ask for their removal during the work plan review process.

Questions should be directed to Lisa Jackson (lisa.d.jackson@usda.gov) or Heather Moylett (heather.moylett@usda.gov).