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**Date:** April 22, 2020

**To:** Pest Detection / CAPS Community

**From:** Pest Detection Management Team  
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**Subject:** 2021 National Pest Surveillance Guidelines

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) [2021 National Pest Surveillance Guidelines](#). The National Pest Surveillance Guidelines can be found on the [CAPS Resource & Collaboration web site](#) by hovering over Survey in the top menu row, and clicking on the Guidelines link, or directly from the link above. These Guidelines pertain to surveys conducted by state cooperators and PPQ personnel funded through the Pest Detection line item, and National Priority Surveys funded through Goal 1 Survey of Section 7721 of the Plant Protection Act (PPA 7721) (except where indicated in the PPA 7721 Implementation Plan).

The 2021 Guidelines continue to 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 for early detection of exotic pests. A pathway approach to planning and conducting surveys is strongly encouraged.

The CAPS Program is continually evolving. The PDMT has discussed and incorporated ideas, suggestions, and comments from the National CAPS Committee and their constituencies and stakeholders into this year’s Guidelines when possible. Most changes from the 2020 Guidelines consist of clarifications, edits, and updates to various aspects of the Program’s policies and /or processes. For 2021, the CAPS Program also made several significant changes, including creating a single Priority Pest List, reducing the number of pests on the list, and implementing the use of an online work and financial plan template.

Some highlights to the 2021 National Pest Surveillance Guidelines are as follows:

- 2021 Work and Financial plans are due to Field Operations no later than September 11, 2020.

- States should use the final 2020 Pest Detection/CAPS funding amount for planning 2021 surveys.
- The PDMT updated the description of the process for the [Development of the Priority Pest List](#), and placed the [Objective Prioritization of Exotic Pests \(OPEP\) Impact Assessment model](#) at the center. This process will be the only process by which pests are assessed for the Priority Pest List.
- The [Priority Pest List](#) for 2021 will consist of a single list consisting of Category 1 (high and some moderate impact) pests as determined by the OPEP Impact Assessment model. The Economic and Environmental Importance list and Additional Pests of Concern list are discontinued for 2021.
- Twenty-five pests were removed from the 2020 Priority Pest List for 2021 due to an assessed low impact. One new plant pathogen, *Magnaporthe oryzae Triticum* pathotype, the causal agent of wheat blast disease, will be added to the Priority Pest List for 2021. The 2021 Priority Pest List will contain 104 pests, down from 128 in the 2020 Priority Pest List. See the [Summary of Pest List Changes](#) for details.
- Pests removed from the Priority Pest List are still available for bundled surveys, unless indicated otherwise. See [Guidance for Bundling Former Priority Pests](#).
- Surveys have been split between CAPS and PPA 7721 for 2020 as in previous years. Asian Defoliators and Grape, Palm, Solanaceous, and Stone Fruit Commodity Surveys, and other surveys based on specialty crops should be requested for PPA 7721 funding.
- States continue to have the flexibility to combine their Pest Detection Surveys into one combined work and financial plan, or to submit separate work plans for each Survey. A combined work and financial plan is preferred. This guidance is only for Pest Detection funding, and only for Survey. See an example of a [combined survey work plan](#).
- For 2021, the CAPS Program is implementing an Online Work and Financial Plan template for both Infrastructure and Survey to replace the Word versions used previously. Cooperators are required to use the online template as a final step in the State's process before submission to the ADODR (State Plant Health Director (SPHD)) and the Field Operation's National Operations Manager for approval. The output will be a .pdf file ready for electronic signatures. The Word versions are available on the 2021 Guidelines page for developing, reviewing, and editing work and financial plans before finalization.

- When planning surveys for CAPS and PPA 7721, remember to use a standard name for the survey in the Survey Summary Form. This helps with reporting obligations. See [Guidance for Selecting Survey Names](#).
- The ADODR should check the [Accountability Report](#) on the CAPS Resource & Collaboration website to ensure data from previous years surveys have been entered into the appropriate database. New work plans will not be processed until data entry requirements are met.
- All work plans should be submitted via the PPQ SharePoint site as in previous years. APHIS will continue to use ezFedGrants for the complete administration of cooperative agreements.
- The guidance outlines the roles and responsibilities of the SPHD, State Plant Regulatory Official (SPRO), Pest Survey Specialist (PSS), and State Survey Coordinator (SSC) in the entering of information and survey results in the Survey Summary Form and the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS), respectively. This guidance adds clarity to the responsibility of preparing and entering information across programs, and addresses what needs to be done, who does what, and what goes where. See [Data Entry Roles and Responsibilities](#).
- All Pest Detection and CAPS survey data will be entered into NAPIS for the 2021 field season as in previous years. As states prepare for 2021, remember to complete entry of 2019 and earlier survey results into NAPIS. Refer to the [Accountability Report](#) for missing data.

If you have any questions regarding the 2021 National Pest Surveillance Guidelines, feel free to discuss the matter with your representative on the NCC. The PDMT also is available to answer any questions. If you have any concerns or suggestions on how to improve the CAPS program, please contact:

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