

EASTERN REGION CORE CAPS WORK PLAN

Name of State: Connecticut

Calendar Year: 2005

Name of State Survey Coordinator (SSC): Donna R. Ellis, Extension Educator,
University of Connecticut

Name of Contact Person, if different from SSC: Victoria Smith, Deputy State Entomologist,
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

SSC Telephone Number: (860) 486-6448

Lead Agency: The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

State Survey Committee Members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Discipline</u>
Tim Abbey	The CT Agricultural Experiment Station	Entomology
Sandra Anagnostakis	The CT Agricultural Experiment Station	Plant Pathology
Richard Ashley	University of Connecticut	Weed Science
Jude Boucher	University of Connecticut	Entomology
Chris Donnelly	CT DEP, CT Tree Protector's Association	Urban Forestry, Arboriculture
Sharon Douglas	The CT Agricultural Experiment Station	Plant Pathology
Patricia Douglass	USDA APHIS PPQ	State Plant Health Director
Bill Duessing	CT NOFA	Organic farming
Donna Ellis	University of Connecticut	Plant Science
Kevin Grady	CT Department of Environmental Protection	Forestry
Jim LaMondia	The CT Agricultural Experiment Station	Plant Pathology, Nematology
Louis Magnarelli	The CT Agricultural Experiment Station	Entomology
Chris Maier	The CT Agricultural Experiment Station	Entomology
Les Mehrhoff	University of Connecticut	Botany
Jane O'Donnell	University of Connecticut	Entomology
Ron Olsen	Department of Agriculture	Economics, Marketing
Tom Rathier	The CT Agricultural Experiment Station	Soil Science, Diagnostics
Brad Robinson	CT Department of Environmental Protection	Biology
Ralph Scarpino	CT Department of Environmental Protection	Forestry
David Schroeder	University of Connecticut	Plant Pathology
Victoria Smith	The CT Agricultural Experiment Station	Plant Pathology
Kimberly Stoner	The CT Agricultural Experiment Station	

Table of Surveys:

CAPS Category	Target Survey	Funding Request
Part I – Core PEST DETECTION	a. Giant African Snail/Giant Salvinia/Hydrilla b. Wood Boring/Bark Beetle Warehouse Survey c. Emerald Ash Borer	\$75,000

Part II – Exotic Pests PEST DETECTION	a. Viburnum Leaf Beetle b. Brown Marmorated Stink Bug	\$25,000
Part III – Other Line Item Pests EMERGING PLANT PESTS	a. Chrysanthemum White Rust b. Small Hive Beetle c. Pine Shoot Beetle	\$21,000

Part 1) Core Project Work Plan:

A primary objective of the CAPS program is to safeguard our nation’s food and environmental security from exotic pests that threaten our production and ecological systems. The purpose of the project is to build up The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station’s and the University of Connecticut’s intellectual infrastructure for performing Homeland Security CAPS coordination work. With this infrastructure and continued funding from USDA/APHIS, Donna Ellis will continue to take on the role of Connecticut HS/CAPS Coordinator in federal fiscal year 2005. The ultimate goal is to further the Homeland Security Initiative by protecting our nation’s food production and natural resources from exotic pests and bioterrorism. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will provide personnel to take on the role of a Connecticut CAPS State Survey Coordinator in 2005 through a Personal Service Agreement with the University of Connecticut.

1. **State Survey Coordinator (SSC).** The State Survey Coordinator (D. Ellis) and the key contact for Connecticut (V. Smith) will develop infrastructure for coordination of the state's CAPS Program and the State CAPS Committee and act as liaisons with the State PPQ Office. The Core CAPS Program in Connecticut will develop a network to use existing state and national resources in the evaluation of risks of specific exotic and invasive plant pest species and set state survey priorities accordingly.
 - a. Determine state training needs to further develop CAPS programs. Provide and assist in training.
 - b. Coordinate actions of agencies involved in surveys through oversight of survey work-plans.
 - c. Facilitate the cooperating agency's mechanism of distributing funds to other cooperating parties conducting surveys.
 - d. The SSC, in conjunction with the Contact Person, SPHD, and the State CAPS Committee, will work with other state, county, and federal and public entities to create new and reinforce existing networks to evaluate risks, conduct surveys and manage cooperative pest programs.
 - e. Rapid response - Initial survey activities and contingency plans should be coordinated so that if an exotic pest or an invasive species is detected, it can be appropriately addressed in a timely manner with minimal disruption to our nation's food supply and plant resources.
 - f. Networking includes regular attendance by designated state representatives at state, regional, and national CAPS committees.

2. Data Management.

State coordination of survey data collection and NAPIS database. All survey data from cooperative agreements involving pest surveys will be entered into the NAPIS database.

- a. First record for the State and/or County will be entered within **48 hours** of confirmation of identification by a qualified identifier.
 - b. All other required records, both positive and negative survey data, must be entered **within two weeks** of confirmation.
 - c. All records are to be entered into the NAPIS database by **December 1** of the year of survey, so these data can be included in the yearly Plant Board Report.
All data created from PPQ surveys will be entered into NAPIS.
- All appropriate data obtained by the CSREES network will be entered into NAPIS.
 - Exotic pest survey data from other sources (such as U.S. Forest Service, State Departments of Agriculture, and other qualified survey programs) will be entered into NAPIS as part of the Core project.
 - Query NAPIS database for information.
 - Survey maps and data collection will be conducted with GIS and GPS technology as appropriate.
 - Encourage the use of Personal Data Assistants or hand-held data entry devices for gathering survey data relevant to each state and to NAPIS.

3. Priority Pest List. States will select from the National, Regional, and Historic pest lists the exotic plant pests that are most appropriate to their agricultural landscape and their environmental conditions. The list will help focus each state's survey priorities in coordination with other neighboring states in the region and across the nation. States will be expected to survey for pests with the highest risk in their state. States will also be responsible for developing survey plans that will best survey for these pests into the future. Survey plans should be prepared in conjunction with item # 4, below. Surveys and educational outreach programs are proposed to best protect Connecticut's biosecurity and natural resources. The surveys will target exotic pests of national interest. With the 2005 assistance, the University of Connecticut will be in a position to provide a person to serve as CAPS State Survey Coordinator for Connecticut. It is also expected that this agency will be able to perform surveys for the following pests in 2005 and beyond:

A. Giant African Snail/Giant Salvinia/Hydrilla

The giant African snail (*Achatina fulica*) is recommended as a national CAPS target and high priority survey pest for calendar year 2005. Giant African snails, although illegal in the U.S., are being increasingly used for science lessons by school teachers and subsequently released into the environment. The Eastern Pest Survey Committee also has recommended that giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) and hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) be surveyed for during 2005. Hydrilla has been found in several ponds in Connecticut and elsewhere in New England. These invasive aquatic plants may be spreading to new locations via the aquarium and water garden trades. A visual detection survey and educational outreach project is proposed for giant African snail, giant salvinia, and hydrilla to determine the presence or absence of and disseminate information to increase awareness of the three non-native pests in Connecticut. Information will also be disseminated to Connecticut school teachers, superintendents, and public libraries. This project is proposed as a collaboration between the University of Connecticut and The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

B. Wood Boring/Bark Beetle Warehouse Survey

Survey objectives are to evaluate and survey those warehouses in the state that pose the greatest risk of introducing longhorned and bark beetles based on the origin and type of cargo they are storing. Connecticut has three major ports and numerous import businesses, as well as large franchises which may store foreign merchandise brought into this country. Our regulatory duties normally do not allow us the time or budget to examine these high-risk areas. We propose to identify and inspect high risk warehouses based on shipments of commodities that are associated with large dimensional solid wood crating and survey these areas for longhorned and bark beetles. Station personnel will place and monitor Lindgren funnel traps and commercially available attractants in warehouses. Solid wood packing materials, crated commodities, dunnage, and dunnage storage areas will be visually inspected for signs of Asian and other longhorned and bark beetles. These surveys will help us in the early detection and eradication of incipient populations.

C. Emerald Ash Borer

Surveys will be conducted for emerald ash borer (EAB) in ash trees near businesses and warehouses to discover infestations of the emerald ash borer and to raise public awareness of the EAB through distribution of educational materials. The survey will assist Connecticut in detecting early infestations of EAB and in establishment of control programs. Surveys will be conducted March through November 2005, by visual inspection of ash trees for 1) emergence holes of adult insects; 2) damaged bark due to larval burrowing; and 3) woodpecker damage indicative of insect infestation. Insects will also be trapped on sticky traps and identified to species. The surveys will produce information on the location and prevalence of infested trees, which will be added to the NAPIS database. In addition, outreach materials in the form of Pest Alerts, handouts, and oral presentations will be made available to local nursery and landscape associations, garden clubs, and the general citizenry of Connecticut.

4. Pest Risk and Pathway Analysis.

Using the Priority pest list developed in #3 above, the State CAPS Committees will assess pest specific risk within their state by examining existing pathways and reviewing available information such as the AQI and other databases and pest specific Pest Survey Assessments (PSA). Pest analyses at the state level should be conducted by first determining high risk sites identified in each PSA and then by preparing Work Plans to address these areas. New information regarding the identification of pathways and areas at risk that warrant additional monitoring/survey should be fed back to the Regional Committees for further evaluation and incorporation into PSAs.

5. Public Outreach and Risk Communication.

Education and communication must be an integral part of each State Survey Program. The SSC will be responsible for public outreach and risk communication with entities such as state and federal cooperators, university Cooperative Extension Services, and agricultural industry representatives. Fact sheets, educational material, and pest distribution maps for each identified pest on the State Plant Pest list should be developed for distribution as appropriate.

6. State Surveys.

Connecticut will conduct pest detection and delimiting surveys as part of core level funding. State survey needs, including supplies, equipment, and personnel, and the appropriate survey methods or protocols that best accomplish pest detection and Homeland Security, are detailed in each of the work plans submitted for consideration for funding under Part 1 and Part 2.

Part 2) Exotic Pest Surveys that require additional funding - Exotic plant pests have a potential to impact plant resources, agricultural production, trade, and/or our Nation's environment and economy. They are characterized as having a high risk of being introduced or a high potential for use as an agent of biological terrorism. Pests in this category have Pest Risk Assessments (PRA) that indicate a high entry potential and/or a high economic impact potential. These pests are not known to occur or have a very limited distribution in the United States. They have limited geographic distribution and definite "pest-free" zones of at least one county resolution. They may impact our agriculture or environment and have been shown to be at our borders through PPQ AQI activities. The following pests are proposed for survey and educational outreach in Connecticut during 2005:

- a. **Viburnum Leaf Beetle**
- b. **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug**

Part 3) Programs covered by other budgetary line items - Emerging Plant Pests - Pests that are found in the United States and have budgeted funds (limited) for survey and are of concern in individual states. The list of Emerging Plant Pests proposed for survey and educational outreach for Connecticut in 2005 follows:

- a. **Chrysanthemum White Rust**
- b. **Small Hive Beetle**
- c. **Pine Shoot Beetle**

Quantitative projection of Accomplishments to be achieved

Victoria Smith, the State Plant Regulatory Official and principal point of contact for the CAPS program in Connecticut, will manage the Cooperative Agreement, supervise the State Survey Coordinator, ensure that the State Survey Coordinator carries out her assigned duties, conduct educational outreach, and work with the Business Office of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and the State Survey Coordinator to develop a Personal Service Agreement with the University of Connecticut for the State Survey Coordinator.

Donna Ellis, the State Survey Coordinator will coordinate interagency cooperation for CAPS activities in Connecticut. She will develop and coordinate all survey work plans and budget/financial plans and conduct surveys. The State Survey Coordinator will compile and enter NAPIS data and conduct educational outreach. She will interact and communicate with state and federal cooperators, University Cooperative Extension System personnel, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station staff, agricultural and other commodity industry representatives, and non-governmental organizations.

The State Survey Coordinator will conduct CAPS State Survey Committee meetings in Connecticut. The State Survey Committee will hold at least one meeting per year in Connecticut to discuss exotic pest survey priorities, which pests are of concern in the state, and assess pest specific risks within Connecticut based on existing pathways and other pest-specific assessments from the CAPS guide. Exotic plant pests to be surveyed will be selected from the National, Regional and Homeland Security pest lists.

The State Survey Coordinator will work with the Office for Sponsored Programs at the University of Connecticut to develop a Personal Service Agreement with The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and to work with their Business Office to ensure that all required administrative forms and reports are submitted in a timely manner, including the two semi-annual narrative progress reports and the Plant Board Annual Report. The State Survey Coordinator will research CAPS organization at the federal and state level and make contacts, and familiarize and network with appropriate personnel. The State Survey Coordinator will assess pest surveys already prioritized by

APHIS for 2005 and will assess what pest detection work inspectors and other staff from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension personnel from the University of Connecticut are already performing that could be utilized as part of CAPS surveys.

A rapid response plan for new exotic pest invasions and dissemination of new exotic pest information will be implemented by The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, with assistance by the State Survey Coordinator at the University of Connecticut.

Overall accomplishment will be the elevation of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's experience with CAPS, in cooperation with the University of Connecticut so that the USDA/APHIS goal of Connecticut CAPS coordination might be feasible. This work will help provide a guide for an eventual full-time Connecticut CAPS coordinator. The above goals are to be met by December 31, 2005.

Data Collection and Maintenance

Donna Ellis, State Survey Coordinator will be responsible for state coordination of survey data collection and the NAPIS database. Ms. Ellis will work with The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station staff. Her duties will include the following:

1. NAPIS data entry and quality assurance of survey generated data.
2. Enter new state records and new county records into the NAPIS database within 48 hours of confirmation of identification by a qualified identifier. Non-critical, redundant records must be entered into NAPIS within two weeks of confirmation of data quality.
3. Survey maps and data collection will be conducted with GIS and GPS technology.
4. Query NAPIS database for information.
5. Encourage the use of Personal Data Assistants or hand-held data entry devices for gathering survey data relevant to each state and to NAPIS.
6. Support other PPQ programs with NAPIS data entry and GIS products upon request.

List of Contributing Parties Who Will Work on the Project

1. Victoria Smith, Deputy State Entomologist, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will serve as the principal point of contact for Connecticut. Dr. Smith and her staff will also conduct CAPS surveys.
2. Donna R. Ellis, Extension Educator, University of Connecticut, will serve as CAPS State Survey Coordinator of the University of Connecticut's and The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's efforts and conduct CAPS surveys. A part-time technician may be hired to assist with surveys.
3. Patricia M. Douglass, State Plant Health Director, USDA/APHIS will provide informational support and federal guidance.

Geographic Location in Which Project is to Take Place

Administrative work, survey preparatory activities and development of educational materials will take place primarily at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut and The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven and Windsor, Connecticut. Fieldwork for CAPS surveys will take place throughout the state with inspectors from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and staff from the University of Connecticut. Program outreach activities will be conducted at multiple locations statewide.