

**USDA APHIS PPQ COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY (CAPS)
PROGRAM
STATE SURVEY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

The CAPS State Survey Committee meeting was held at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Valley Laboratory, Windsor, Connecticut on 11 April 2006. Tim Abbey, Kate Aitkenhead, Sandra Anagnostakis, Jude Boucher, Nichole Campbell, Sharon Douglas, Patty Douglass, Donna Ellis, John Haanstad, Jim LaMondia, Chris Maier, Les Mehrhoff, Todd Mervosh, Jane O'Donnell, Tom Rathier, Brad Robinson, Claire Rutledge, Victoria Smith, and Kirby Stafford attended the meeting. Todd Mervosh, a Weed Scientist from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, joined the CAPS State Survey Committee as a new member.

Victoria Smith, Chris Maier, Sharon Douglas, Claire Rutledge [all from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)], Donna Ellis (UConn), and Nichole Campbell and Patty Douglass (both from USDA APHIS PPQ) discussed results of CAPS 2005 survey activities for wood boring/bark beetle (warehouse survey), emerald ash borer, giant African snail/hydrilla/giant salvinia, viburnum leaf beetle, chrysanthemum white rust, small hive beetle, pine shoot beetle, Asian longhorned beetle, and *P. ramorum*. With the exception of viburnum leaf beetle, which was found again in two counties previously detected in 2004, all other surveys were negative for the target pests. Donna Ellis discussed results from the noxious weeds survey for giant hogweed. Giant hogweed was confirmed in two new towns in 2005 in Litchfield and Windham Counties. Eradication efforts are underway at all sites in the state where this noxious weed has been found. Donna also provided a summary of biological control activities for purple loosestrife and the Beetle Farmer program, where volunteers learn how to rear and release biological control agents for this invasive plant. Semi-annual and annual accomplishment reports for the 2005 survey and educational outreach projects are posted on the CAPS website, in the Special Features section of the CAES website (<http://www.caes.state.ct.us/CAPS/CAPS.htm>).

The current CAPS survey and educational outreach projects for 2006 were discussed. The following projects, followed by project coordinators and collaborators, will be conducted by the University of Connecticut and The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Survey work plans are posted on the CAPS website:

- Surveys for exotic beetles in warehouses – Vicki Smith
- Brown marmorated stink bug – Donna Ellis, Chris Maier
- Winter moth – Nichole Campbell, Donna Ellis, Lorraine Los
- Swede midge – Kim Stoner
- Giant African snail – Donna Ellis, Vicki Smith
- Summer fruit tortrix, fruit tree tortrix – Chris Maier
- Chrysanthemum white rust – Vicki Smith, Sharon Douglas
- Small hive beetle – Vicki Smith
- Pine shoot beetle – Vicki Smith
- *P. ramorum* – Vicki Smith, Sharon Douglas
- Noxious weeds (giant hogweed) – Donna Ellis, Elizabeth Corrigan, Todd Mervosh
- Biological control (purple loosestrife) – Donna Ellis

Chris Maier gave a presentation on emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) and discussed surveys he has been conducting in the region. Emerald ash borer is a new exotic beetle causing significant

damage to ash trees in Michigan and Canada, with smaller infestations also found in Ohio, Indiana, and Maryland. Surveys from 2004 and 2005 have been negative for emerald ash borer in Connecticut.

Nichole Campbell (USDA APHIS PPQ Pest Survey Specialist) gave an update on Sirex wood wasp (*Sirex noctilio*), a new pest of all pine species and possibly other conifers. Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) will be conducting a port survey for Sirex in New Haven during 2006.

Nichole also presented an update on Hot Zones, where key commodities and their priority pests are identified and targeted in the state, and areas where they are more likely to be detected,. Thirty-six businesses identified in Connecticut in 2005 were separated into high risk, medium risk, and low risk sites. Based on these hot zones, warehouse surveys for wood boring bark beetles and Sirex wood wasps will be conducted in 2006.

Discussions continued on data entry, and which data are required to be submitted to the NAPIS database. New state and county records for CAPS survey pests must be submitted to NAPIS within 48 hours of confirmation by a qualified identifier, and all other non-critical data must be submitted two weeks following the confirmation of data quality. 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. All pest occurrence data (positive or negative) should be forwarded to Donna for data entry.

State Survey Committee members discussed which exotic pests to focus on for 2007 surveys and educational outreach in Connecticut. CAPS funding for Connecticut will remain the same for 2007 as it was in 2006. Eastern Region CAPS Guidelines for 2007 work plans have been emailed to all State Survey Committee members. Individual work plans must be submitted to Donna Ellis by June 1, 2006. Please contact Donna if you have any questions or comments (phone 860-486-6448; email donna.ellis@uconn.edu)

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Ellis, Chairperson, CAPS State Survey Committee and CAPS State Survey Coordinator

5 May 2006