

**USDA APHIS 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 8 February 2005. Kate Aitkenhead, Jude Boucher, Nichole Campbell, Chris Donnelly, Sharon Douglas, Patty Douglass, Rob Durgy, Donna Ellis, Kevin Grady, Jim LaMondia, Chris Maier, Les Mehrhoff, Jane O'Donnell, Tom Rathier, Claire Rutledge, Ralph Scarpino, Victoria Smith, and Kim Stoner attended the meeting. Those in attendance included several new State Survey Committee members.

Victoria Smith [CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)], Chris Maier (CAES), and Donna Ellis (UConn) discussed results of CAPS 2004 survey activities for emerald ash borer, wood boring/bark beetles, exotic wireworms and *Inula britannica* (British yellowhead). Surveys were negative for all target pests. Chris Donnelly (CT Dept. of Environmental Protection) distributed copies of a new informational packet that he developed on non-native insect and disease pests of trees. The packet was funded by the CAPS program and contains an introductory section, fact sheets, instructions on what to do and who to contact if a new potential pest is found in the state, and Internet resources for seven insects and four pathogens not yet known from Connecticut.

Information on new state records was presented by Jude Boucher (UConn) for two pumpkin diseases [Plectosporium blight (*Plectosporium tabacinum*) in 2003 and cucurbit yellow vine disease (*Serratia marcescens*) in 2004] and Claire Rutledge (CAES) for soybean aphid (*Aphis glycines*) in 2004. Donna Ellis discussed additional new state and county records: viburnum leaf beetles (*Pyrrhalta viburni*) were found by Tim Abbey (CAES) for the first time at nurseries in two Connecticut counties; Ken Welch and Jeff Fengler (both from CAES) reported new county records for lily leaf beetle (*Lilioceris lili*) from 2004; Ken Welch confirmed giant whitefly (*Aleurodicus dugesii*) on hibiscus plants in a Fairfield County greenhouse for the first time; and a new wilt disease (*Fusarium foetens*) of begonia was found for the first time by Wade Elmer (CAES) in 2003.

The current CAPS survey and educational outreach projects for 2005 were discussed. The following projects will be conducted by the University of Connecticut and The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Survey and outreach protocols were distributed:

- Wood boring/bark beetle warehouse survey (CAES)
- Emerald ash borer (CAES)
- Viburnum leaf beetle (UConn)
- Brown marmorated stink bug (UConn and CAES)
- Chrysanthemum white rust (CAES)
- Pine shoot beetle (CAES)
- Small hive beetle (CAES)
- Sudden oak death (CAES)

Chris Maier presented a summary of emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) and small Japanese cedar longhorned beetle (*Callidiellum rufipenne*) 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 to date have been negative for emerald ash borer in Connecticut. Chris first collected the small Japanese cedar longhorned beetle from the four coastal Connecticut counties in 2000, and it is

now considered to be well-established. He found the longhorned beetles in one location in Hartford County in 2003, and they are also established in New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island.

Donna Ellis discussed deadlines for CAPS semi-annual narrative progress reports and pest occurrence records to be submitted to the NAPIS (National Agricultural Pest Information System) database. For the narrative progress report due 31 March (for the period covering 7/1/04-12/31/04), please forward survey, outreach, and/or other information to Donna by 15 March. 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 pest occurrence data (positive or negative) should be forwarded to Donna for data entry.

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), a Federal Noxious Weed that is considered both an environmental and health hazard, has been identified from 18 sites in seven Connecticut Counties to date (all counties except New Haven). During 2004 surveys conducted by Elizabeth Corrigan and a large group of statewide volunteers, giant hogweed was found in three new locations. Significant educational outreach occurred during the summer and fall to alert the public about this poisonous invasive species. Management options were discussed with property owners where giant hogweed was found. Elizabeth and Donna Ellis gave a workshop on giant hogweed as part of an invasive plant symposium presented by the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group in October 2004 on the UConn campus.

Nichole Campbell (USDA APHIS PPQ Pest Survey Specialist) gave a presentation on the Hot Zone concept, where key commodities and their priority pests are identified and targeted in the state. Numerous databases are available to track pest interceptions and imports by industry in order to determine a plan of action for these pests. Patty Douglass (USDA APHIS PPQ State Plant Health Director) and Nichole will set up a Pathway Risk Committee to target pest detection priorities for Connecticut.

Committee members engaged in a lengthy discussion on ramorum blight (formerly known as sudden oak death). Victoria Smith, Patty Douglass, and Sharon Douglas updated the committee on the status of this pathogen in Connecticut. Our state is in the midst of a number of meetings and discussions in preparation for the upcoming field season and the plant specimens that will be submitted for testing to CAES (plant specimens from the Green Industry) and UConn (specimens from homeowners and the public). Rob Durgy (UConn) briefed the committee on the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network and plans to equip a laboratory at the UConn Home and Garden Education Center to conduct ELISA pre-screening tests for ramorum blight, forwarding positive samples to Cornell University for confirmation. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is the official regulatory agency in the state for ramorum blight.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments. CAPS State Survey Committee members who were not in attendance will be mailed a packet of handouts that were distributed at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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

22 February 2005