

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

The State CAPS Committee meeting was held at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Valley Laboratory, Windsor, Connecticut on 2 November 2007. Jude Boucher, Nichole Campbell, Sharon Douglas, Patty Douglass, Rob Durgy, Donna Ellis, Rose Hiskes, Jim LaMondia, Chris Maier, Todd Mervosh, Tom Rathier, Ralph Scarpino, Vicki Smith, and Kirby Stafford attended the meeting.

The State CAPS Committee meeting began with an announcement by Donna Ellis (University of Connecticut; UConn) that the State Survey Coordinator position will be transferred to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station beginning 1 January, 2008. Rose Hiskes (Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; CAES) will become the new State Survey Coordinator at that time. In other committee news, Jude Boucher (UConn) has resigned from the State CAPS Committee.

The committee discussed results from 2007 CAPS Core surveys for wood boring/bark beetles and *Phytophthora ramorum*; Part II surveys for exotic Siricids, summer fruit tortrix moth, and fruit tree tortrix moth; Part III surveys for chrysanthemum white rust, pine shoot beetle, and Swede midge; and PPQ surveys for Asian gypsy moth (port survey), wood boring/bark beetles, Siberian silk moth, and the *Sirex* grid survey.

Chrysanthemum white rust (*Puccinia horiana*) was confirmed for the first time in Connecticut on 12 September, 2007 in Fairfield and Hartford Counties. Infected plants were found in nurseries and garden centers during visual inspections by CAES staff. The disease was confirmed by Sharon Douglas (CAES) and a USDA APHIS laboratory. Eradication of infected plants has occurred at the positive sites.

Kimberly Stoner (CAES) submitted 15 suspect Swede midges collected during survey activities for this pest, but all were found to be negative.

Nichole Campbell (USDA APHIS PPQ) informed the committee that an adult beetle collected in late May from a Lindgren funnel trap during the PPQ wood boring/bark beetle survey and tentatively identified as the banded elm bark beetle (*Scolytus schevyrewi*) had been sent to the Systematic Entomology Laboratory. The specimen was confirmed in November, representing a new state record.

All other CAPS and PPQ surveys were negative for the targeted pests.

Follow up surveys in 2007 for Khapra beetle, which was originally found in Connecticut in 2006 for the first time, were negative.

Donna Ellis and Todd Mervosh (CAES) discussed results from the noxious weeds survey for giant hogweed. Giant hogweed was confirmed in two new towns, Goshen and Greenwich, in Litchfield and Fairfield Counties, respectively. Eradication efforts continued at most of the sites in the state where this noxious weed has been found. Elizabeth Corrigan (Botanist) and Todd Mervosh assisted with the giant hogweed survey and outreach project. A distribution map for giant hogweed and an updated brochure have been posted on the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) website at www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg. Todd and Donna also discussed efforts during 2007 to control another non-native invasive plant, mile-a-minute vine, which unfortunately is becoming more widespread in western Connecticut.

Donna provided a summary of biological control activities for purple loosestrife and the Beetle Farmer program, where volunteers learn how to rear and introduce biological control agents for this invasive plant. More than 1.4 million *Galerucella* beetles, purple loosestrife biological control agents, have been introduced into over 100 Connecticut wetlands since the program began in 1996.

The upcoming CAPS survey and educational outreach projects for 2008 were briefly discussed. With the restructuring of the CAPS program for 2008, much of the funding will be allocated to Infrastructure, including the State Survey Coordinator position. The *Phytophthora ramorum* national survey will occur during 2008 using Part II and Part III funding, and the chrysanthemum white rust survey will be funded under Part III. Surveys for 2008 conducted by USDA APHIS PPQ will include wood boring/bark beetles, Asian gypsy moth port survey, Rice cutworm, Egyptian cottonworm, old world bollworm, and possibly *Sirex noctilio*.

Additional surveys and educational outreach will occur for the following exotic plants during 2008:

- Noxious weeds (giant hogweed) – Donna Ellis, Elizabeth Corrigan, Todd Mervosh
- Biological control (purple loosestrife) – Donna Ellis

Vicki Smith (CAES) gave an update on the National CAPS Committee, of which she is a member. Vicki is also coordinating CAPS and U.S. Forest Service activities in southern New England. The National Committee discussed the NAPIS and ISIS databases and the types of data suitable for entry into both.

Reporting deadlines, including accomplishment reports and data for entry into NAPIS, were emphasized. New state and county records for CAPS survey pests must be submitted to NAPIS within 48 hours of confirmation by a qualified identifier. All other non-critical data must be submitted to the State Survey Coordinator two weeks following the confirmation of data quality, and no later than November 1, 2007. The deadline to submit information for the CAPS Annual Accomplishment Report (for the reporting period 1/1/07-12/31/07), is January 31, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

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

30 November 2007