



NATIONAL CLEAN PLANT NETWORK (NCPN) Farm Bill Sec. 10202 – FACT SHEET - FY 2011



NCPN Establishment



The Farm Bill – H.R. 6124 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 – became law in June 2008. **Section 10202** directs the USDA Secretary of Agriculture to establish the “National Clean

Plant Network” (NCPN), a program under which:

- Partnerships of clean plant centers are organized;
- Centers focus on diagnostic and pathogen elimination services;
- Activities produce clean propagative plant material;
- Centers maintain blocks of pathogen-tested plant materials in sites throughout the United States.

Clean plant material may then be made available to States for certified clean plant programs and to private nurseries and producers.

In carrying out the NCPN, USDA shall:

- Consult with State departments of agriculture, land grant universities, non land grant colleges of agriculture, and industry;
- Use existing Federal or State facilities to serve as clean plant centers to the extent practicable.

NCPN Background

At its core, the NCPN is a collaborative effort among three USDA agencies; the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for quarantine and regulatory programs, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) for technology and germplasm issues, and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) [formerly the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)] for outreach and partnership initiatives.

As a concept, however, the NCPN began in November 2006 when a steering committee, with representatives from the nursery industry, the grower community, the National Plant Board (NPB) and other state regulatory agencies, the land-grant university system, and USDA was formed to review existing “clean plant programs”, prioritize a list of specialty crops for funding, and propose an NCPN implementation process.

A national workshop sponsored by APHIS at Riverdale, Maryland in May 2007 was held to implement the NCPN and introduce the concept to a broader stakeholder base. This workshop developed the NCPN mission and vision statements and initiated drafting an NCPN strategic plan.

Basic to NCPN are stakeholder driven, specialty crop, clean plant governing bodies composed of interested state, university, and industry partners. In 2009 and 2010 stakeholders representing Fruit Trees (Pomes and Stone Fruit), Grapes, Berries (Strawberries, Cranberries/Blueberries, and Cane Fruit), Citrus, and Hops formed NCPN governing bodies entrusted with harmonizing and networking clean plant activities for their crop groups under the NCPN banner.

The NCPN held a general meeting in Washington, DC in March 2009. Highlights included an introduction of a draft NCPN business plan and the installation of the NCPN Governing Board. A second general meeting was held in Davis, CA in May 2010. Highlights included discussions on clean plant center long-term sustainability and creating a comprehensive NCPN education/outreach program.

NCPN issued its 1st call for proposals in June 2009 and its 2nd call for proposals in April 2010 as part of its annual Cooperative Agreements Program.

NCPN Mission

The NCPN provides high quality asexually propagated plant material free of targeted plant pathogens and pests that cause economic loss to protect the environment and ensure the global competitiveness of specialty crop producers.

NCPN Goals and Objectives

1. **Governance:** Establish, manage, and administer a national clean plant network and commodity specific national and regional governing bodies.
2. **Operations:** Provide for the rapid and safe introduction and release of clean plant materials for planting from foreign and domestic sources for commercial development.
3. **Methods Development and Technology:** Develop plant pathogen testing techniques, therapeutic methods, and establish diagnostic guidelines and standards.
4. **Extension and Outreach:** Develop partnerships with extension/outreach services to interact with commercial nurseries, producers, and others.
5. **Planning and Quality Control:** Develop plans and evaluate program performance

NCPN Memorandum of Understanding

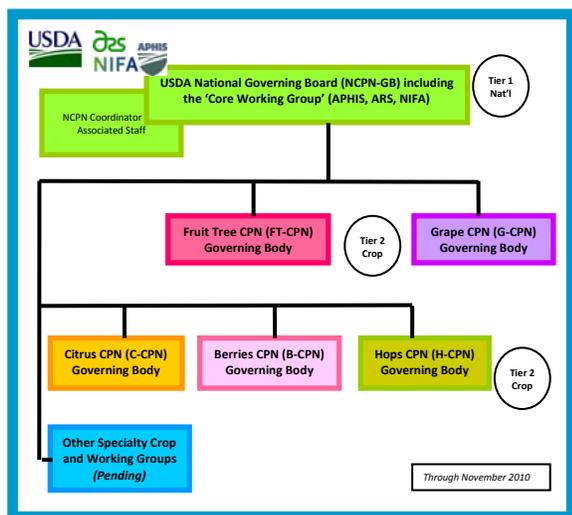
- Lays foundation for NCPN goals and program governance at the Federal and cooperator level.
- Signed on March 26, 2009 in Washington, DC.

NCPN Activities

- Create Commodity-Based Clean Plant Network Governing Bodies and Working Groups.
- Develop Consultative and Communications Procedures with stakeholders.
- Build Strategic and Business Plans
- Engage in needs driven Priority Setting with commodity-based specialty crop partners.
- Support a network of Facilities and Expertise for pathogen testing, therapy, and associated research, methods development, risk management, education, and outreach.
- Establish Foundation Clean Stock plantings and provide material to nurseries and growers within prescribed nursery certification programs.
- Improve the National Plant Germplasm System by testing and cleaning plant material for industry.
- Set Diagnostic Guidelines and National Standards.
- Conduct Research and Methods Development to support clean plant programs.
- Advocate for industry-driven Best Management Practices in support of clean plant networks.
- Organize and deliver Education, Extension, and Outreach programs.
- Coordinate and share the use of scarce Resources to support commodity-based clean plant networks.

NCPN Governance (Through November 2010)

NCPN is governed by a Core Working Group (CWG) comprised of APHIS, ARS and NIFA. The CWG is assisted by the NCPN Governing Board (NCPN-GB) composed of 5 State and Federal invited members (Tier 1). Currently fruit tree, grape, berry, citrus, and hops specialty crop networks constitute NCPN, each with their own governance at national (Tier2) level. These governing bodies have representatives from the nursery industry, grower community, associations, state regulators, research, and extension.



NCPN Strategic/Business Plan

- Covers NCPN Mission, Goals, Performance Measures, and Funding Plan.
- Draft distributed at NCPN General Meeting (3/26/09) for final stakeholder ratification.
- Revision anticipated by the Spring 2011.

NCPN Farm Bill 2008 Funding – Status

- \$5 million each year for 4 years (2009-2012) for total of \$20; no-year funds.
- OMB funding apportionments to USDA/APHIS.
 - FY 2009 funding provided September, 2009
 - FY 2010 funding provided September, 2010.

NCPN Support - Focus

NCPN Strives to Identify and Support Recognized Public Needs for Clean Plant Activities.

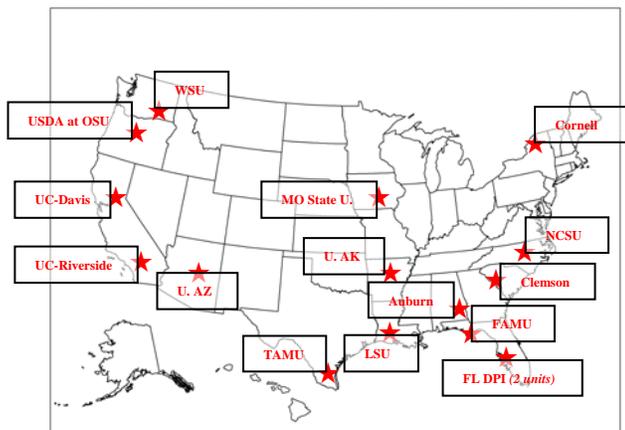
NCPN Cooperative Agreements Program for FY 2009 – Funding Logistics

- Competitive Cooperative Agreements Program
- Request for Applications FY 2009:
 - Available: June-July, 2009
- Provided Funding to 5 Entities in FY 2009
 - Cooperators Located in 5 States
 - Funding Range >>> \$230,000 - \$1,300,000
- FY 2009 – 2 Specialty Crop Groups Supported
 - Fruit Trees (Pome and Stone Fruits)
 - Grapes
- Funds provided to cooperators - September 2009
 - Total amount of NCPN funding provided to cooperators in FY 2009 - \$3,059,843

NCPN Cooperative Agreements Program for FY 2010 – Funding Logistics:

- Competitive Cooperative Agreements Program
- Request for Applications FY 2010:
 - Available: April-June 2010
- Provided Funding to 16 Entities in FY 2010
 - Cooperators Located in 13 States
 - Funding Range >>> \$13,750 - \$1,610,000
- FY 2010 - 5 Specialty Crop Groups Supported
 - Fruit Trees (Pome and Stone Fruits)
 - Grapes
 - Berries (Strawberries, Bramble/Cane Fruit, Cranberries/Blueberries)
 - Citrus
 - Hops
- Funds provided to cooperators – September 2010
 - Total amount of NCPN funding provided to cooperators in FY 2010 - \$5,583,371

NCPN Supported Clean Plant Centers in FY 2010:



NCPN Accomplishments 2009-2010

- Built national, regional and crop-specific NCPN governing bodies composed of governmental, university, and industry representatives nationwide.
- Supporting Fruit Tree (Pomes and Stone Fruits) Clean Plant Network Centers:
 - California, South Carolina, and Washington.
- Supporting Grape Clean Plant Network Centers:
 - California, Florida, Missouri, New York, and Washington.
- Supporting Citrus Clean Plant Network Centers:
 - Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas.
- Supporting Berries (Strawberries, Blueberries, Cranberries, and Cane Fruit) Clean Plant Network Centers:
 - Arkansas, North Carolina, and Oregon.
- Supporting the Hops Clean Plant Network centered out of Washington State.
- Clean Plant Centers being revitalized and foundation plantings being expanded.
- Clean plants being provided to nurseries and growers to ensure planting sustainability and productivity, and quality of products.

Select NCPN FY 2011 Program Objectives:

- Build an NCPN Education/Outreach Program Working Group; Plan and Initiate Activities
- Support audit-based nursery certification programs.
- Consider additional specialty crops interested in building an NCPN supported network.



For More Information:

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Visit USDA's NCPN Website



http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ncpn/index.shtml

or the Stakeholder-Driven NCPN Website Hosted by UC-Davis

<http://groups.ucanr.org/ncpn/>