

On May 22, 2008, *H.R. 6124 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008*, otherwise known as the Farm Bill, became law. Within Title X, Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, *Section 10201, Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention*, the Secretary is directed to make available Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds to implement this Section incrementally, starting with \$12 million in FY09, \$45 million in FY10, and \$50 million in FY11 and thereafter.

The Farm Bill requires the Secretary to do the following under this section:

- (1) In consultation with the National Plant Board and other interested parties, to enter into a cooperative agreement with each State department of agriculture that agrees to conduct early plant pest detection and surveillance activities.
- (2) To establish a threat identification and mitigation program to determine and address threats to the domestic production of crops. In conducting the threat identification and mitigation program, the Secretary must develop risk assessments of the potential threat to the agricultural industry of the United States from foreign sources, collaborate with the National Plant Board, and implement action plans for high consequence plant pests and diseases.
- (3) To provide funds and technical assistance to specialty crop growers, organizations representing specialty crop growers, and State and local agencies working with specialty crop growers and organizations for the development and implementation of audit-based certification systems and nursery plant pest risk management systems, in collaboration with the nursery industry, research institutions, and other entities to address plant pests.

In response, APHIS engaged several stakeholders, including the National Plant Board and other interested parties, in developing an Implementation Plan that was ultimately approved by the Department in December 2008. The Plan outlines six goals with proposed funding levels.

Although the Farm Bill was passed in May 2008, legal issues prevented APHIS and other USDA agencies from spending Commodity Credit Corporation funds for the purposes outlined in the Bill. Once these issues were resolved (through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009), APHIS worked diligently to finalize spending plans for Section 10201. On April 17, 2009, APHIS received the \$12 million for Section 10201 along with funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 through its apportionment from the Office of Management and Budget, per the FY 2009 Omnibus funding bill. Upon receipt, APHIS quickly prepared to implement a spending plan in support of each of the six goals described in the Implementation Plan.

APHIS is very interested in engaging a variety of external stakeholders to plan and implement Section 10201. However, APHIS was required to finalize the FY 2009 spending plan with insufficient time to further engage stakeholders as a result of several factors:

- APHIS must obligate FY 09 10201 funds by September 30, 2009.
- Because funds were not received until April, insufficient time remains for negotiating all but a few new cooperative agreements due to state clearinghouse review timeframes. To the extent possible, existing cooperative agreements are being modified to conduct the work.
- There is insufficient time remaining in FY 09 for a public discussion about all projects that may be proposed for consideration.

APHIS intends for FY 2010 planning and implementation efforts to be different, with sufficient time for inclusion of all interested stakeholders. The webinar scheduled for May 28, 2009, and the Stakeholder meeting scheduled for June 8-9, 2009, will begin the discussion for 2010.

1) Enhanced analysis and surveys (\$3,300,000):

High risk pathway analysis	\$350,000
Plum Pox survey	\$600,000
Plant Health Information System (PHIS)- survey component http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/phis/	\$600,000
Enhance state surveys for high risk pests	\$1,600,000
Honeybee pest survey	\$150,000

2) Target domestic inspection activities (\$1,000,000):

Expanded use of canine teams for domestic inspection/survey; train and put into place in new locations in California.	\$1,000,000
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3) Pest identification & technology enhancement (\$1,962,475):

PHIS- trap/lure procurement system	\$228,000
Bulk procure traps and lures	\$1,067,475
Diagnostic support for high threat arthropods	\$75,000
Cryopreservation for fruit fly production facility	\$25,000
Develop and deliver molecular diagnostics	\$567,000

4) Safeguarding nursery production (\$1,302,333):

Establish a National Ornamentals Research Site at Dominican University in California, initially for - <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	\$994,383
Support state oversight of the research site	\$50,000
Model regulation for a state nursery certification program	\$66,000
National nursery virus certification program pilot	\$100,950
Audit-based state nursery certification systems training	\$25,000
Audit-based state nursery certification systems- outreach	\$66,000

5) Outreach and education (\$1,082,000 in FY09):

Forest pest outreach	\$910,000
Laurel Wilt outreach	\$30,000
Crop Biosecurity Curriculum/extension	\$92,000
Audience research- stage 1	\$50,000

All U.S. producers, small and large, will benefit from an enhanced early detection system that prevents introductions of exotic pests from becoming widespread and requiring costly control measures. Certain outreach activities will specifically target small producers and foster collaboration with local communities.

6) Enhance mitigation capabilities (\$2,611,142 in FY09):

Asian Citrus Psyllid mitigation in northern Mexico	\$850,000
Plum Pox Virus mitigation in NY, MI, and PA	\$704,609
Fruit fly mitigation in CA	\$623,000
Mitigation of golden nematode in targeted areas of NY	\$273,533
Laurel Wilt research focused on mitigation to protect avocados	\$160,000

Each year, PPQ will convene a meeting during the summer to identify and establish potential priorities for the next fiscal year among the proposed activities. Key stakeholders with representatives from industry, the Specialty Crop Coalition, the NPB, tribal governments, PPQ and other Federal partners will be invited to participate in this planning meeting. This group will review the results achieved and identify emerging issues and pest threats to establish a proposed slate of activities for each of the major activity areas for the upcoming fiscal year.

For further information on the Implementation Plan, webinars and meetings, see:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pest_detection/farm_bill.shtml