



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

4700 River Road  
Riverdale MD  
20737

August 4, 2008

Dear Biocontrol Cooperators,

The APHIS PPQ Biocontrol Leadership Team (BLT) has been formally organized to lead, coordinate, and assist in the fulfillment of biocontrol activities against pests of economic and environmental importance to APHIS in cooperation with our partners and stakeholders inside and outside the Agency. The members of this team are Dr. Jo-Ann Bentz-Blanco (National; Chairperson), Dr. Ken Bloem (CPHST), Dr. Ron Weeks (ER), and Dr. Shaharra Usnick (WR).

The BLT aims to maintain and support a robust, well-balanced, innovative, and congressionally defensible biological control program that strongly links to the APHIS' and PPQ's strategic plans, and that follows the language included under the authority of the Plant Protection Act (2000).

Several action items that the team has been working on during FY 2008 include; 1) developing "Performance Measures" to better assess and report Biocontrol efforts, 2) development of a Biocontrol specific Cooperative Agreement Work Plan template for requesting funding, 3) development of a Cooperative Agreement reporting template to better capture Biocontrol efforts and results, and 4) development of a Biological Control Strategic Plan and Operational Plan to clearly define the purpose, scope and direction of the program. Collectively, these materials will place Biocontrol on sure-footing and help ensure that funding continues to be a priority within the Agency and through Congress.

The new templates are being posted on the ER Biocontrol SharePoint website, the WR and CPHST webpages, and on the APHIS PPQ internet webpage for easy accessibility and distribution. Also, these will be sent as email attachments to SPHD's and cooperators as deemed necessary.

The use of these templates is encouraged for this coming FY09. Thus, cooperators submitting work plans for funding consideration should forward well composed stand-alone Cooperative Agreements and templates into our respective offices by September 5, 2008. Please note that CAPS related Cooperative Agreements (Parts 2 or 3) are due on August 15, 2008.

If you want to discuss any Biocontrol issues or concerns, please contact team members or your respective Program Manager. We will be happy to assist.

Sincerely,

Biocontrol Leadership Team



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