

2011 Deputy Administrator's Safeguarding Award Honorable Mention - The INFRA Group

The INFRA group—comprised of PPQ and CBP personnel in International Falls, and Ranier, Minnesota—contributed to the safeguarding continuum by researching and acting on the increasing risks associated with Canadian rail. The group alerted decision-makers to the risk of the U.S. entry, establishment, and spread of animal and plant pests and noxious weeds through that pathway. The group's efforts captured the necessary information and recommendations so that USDA and CBP can increase and better align exclusion efforts and so that field managers such as state plant health directors along the pathway can make informed decisions regarding pest detection and risk analysis to further safeguard American agriculture. The INFRA Group's actions and results are a strong demonstration of:

- cooperator-stakeholder collaboration in risk assessment and risk communication;
- leadership in risk-based management;
- the leveraging of various channels such as PPQ, CBP, pest risk committees, state departments of agriculture, cooperators, and stakeholders to communicate about an agricultural threat;
- the identification of logistical issues needing correction in a port's inspection process to maximize safeguarding efforts;
- the strengthening and expansion of internal and external collaboration in safeguarding American agriculture.

The INFRA Group (APHIS and CBP Team Members)

1. Group Leader: John Stevens, SITC Officer, APHIS-PPQ-SITC, Bloomington, Minnesota
2. Bradley Servais, SITCO, Bloomington, Minnesota
3. Edward Lombard, Retired CBPAS, Int. Falls, Minnesota
4. Gene Krause, Supervisory CBPAS, Int. Falls, Minnesota
5. Greg Rentschler, Supervisory SITCO, Des Plaines, Illinois
6. Essam Dabaan, PPQ PSS, Bloomington, Minnesota
7. Diane Panetta, SITC Operational Analyst, Boise, Idaho
8. David Duchek, CBPAS, Int. Falls, Minnesota
9. Zella Ellshoff, CBPAS, Int. Falls, Minnesota
10. Davis Kettula, CBPAS, Int. Falls, Minnesota
11. Matthew Pendergast, CBPAS, Int. Falls, Minnesota
12. Deborah Niemi, CBPAS, Int. Falls, Minnesota
13. Marty Rasmussen, CBPO, Int. Falls, Minnesota
14. Sue Bannert, CBPO, Int. Falls, Minnesota
15. Gordon McMurray, CBPO, Int. Falls, Minnesota
16. Ron Gilbertson, CBPO, Int. Falls, Minnesota
17. Jim Bissonnette, CBPO, Int. Falls, Minnesota
18. Chad Shikowsky, CBPO, Int. Falls, Minnesota
19. Ralph Pullar, CBPO, Int. Falls, Minnesota
20. Eric Salo, CBPO, Int. Falls, Minnesota
21. Brett Crotty, CBPO K9, Pembina, Minnesota
22. Leslie Vissage, IES Investigator, Minnesota