



United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

2014 Farm Bill Section 10007: Strengthening Our Nation's Ability To Safeguard U.S. Specialty Crops, Agriculture, and Natural Resources

Under the 2014 Farm Bill Section 10007, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service offers funding for projects that protect plant health in the United States. Cooperators across the country put innovative ideas into action with Farm Bill funds to meet and overcome the extraordinary challenges we face today in safeguarding U.S. agriculture and the environment from harmful pests. This work is critical to the USDA mission on many fronts: keeping U.S. plants healthy, advancing science, promoting safe agricultural trade, enhancing the marketability of our country's products, and ultimately, making sure American agriculture and natural resources thrive.



Strategic Goal Area Project Highlights

Improve plant pest and disease survey efforts



- Monitor high-risk pathways
- Detect plant pests early
- Mitigate pest risk to promote safe trade

National surveys guide research on improving honey bee health and increasing bee populations.

With Farm Bill funds, the University of Maryland, USDA's Agricultural Research Service, and apiary specialists in 37 States and Territories launched the 2015 National Survey of Honey Bee Pests and Diseases. Honey bees are vital for agriculture, but their populations are declining. This coast-to-coast survey—the most comprehensive one to date for honey bee pests—gives crucial, baseline data to gauge colony health, detect exotic pest introductions quickly, and prevent their spread.

Enhance plant pest and disease analysis



- Use science to make informed decisions
- Develop risk-based models for decisionmaking
- Gather and analyze available data

A new model informs decisions in plant protection programs and helps keep harmful pests out of the United States.

Farm Bill funds helped USDA's Agricultural Research Service develop a model to identify higher risk points of entry for invasive pests and prevent their introduction. This tool uses U.S. census and foreign travel data to better understand exotic pest movement, optimize surveys for early detection, and support proactive resource planning. USDA has applied the model successfully to citrus programs in Florida and is expanding its use to California and Texas.

Target domestic inspection



- Inspect cargo for pests in interstate trade
- Efficiently move products and commodities
- Enhance inspections using dog teams

With their keen sense of smell, dogs can detect hidden agricultural products at an accuracy rate of more than 90 percent.

Every day, tens of thousands of parcels are shipped into California. Many of these parcels contain plant material that harbors invasive pests. The California Agricultural Detector Dog Team Program, funded by the Farm Bill, has prevented invasive pests from coming into our country through the mail. Dog teams sniff out packages that contain agricultural products. Their inspections protect agriculture from harmful pests that might go undetected by visual checks alone.

Enhance and strengthen pest identification and technology



- Deploy survey procedures and tools
- Accurately identify new pest threats faster
- Support rapid response

A new diagnostic tool helps frontline field personnel accurately detect harmful plant pathogens in 60 seconds or less, allowing for a more rapid response.

Farm Bill funds helped develop a sophisticated yet simple tool that detects specialty crop pathogens in real time: "CANARY," or Cellular Analysis and Notification of Antigen Risks and Yields. Two USDA plant inspection stations have piloted the rapid detection technology to test for bacterial pathogen threats to plant species. In 2015, USDA partnered with a biotechnology company to commercialize several CANARY biosensors for plant pathogen detection.

Safeguard nursery production



- Develop management strategies
- Harmonize clean plant standards
- Mitigate pests and pathogens in nurseries

A new nursery certification approach ensures cleaner plants and easier interstate commerce.

Farm Bill funds supported the Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC) pilot program, which brings together the National Plant Board and nursery industry groups to promote a harmonized approach to nursery and greenhouse certification. This audit-based program improves the sanitation processes at nurseries and unifies standards for the interstate movement of nursery stock. Long-term benefits include reduced pest risk, improved cost efficiencies, and more direct interaction between nurseries and regulators.

Conduct targeted outreach and education



- Increase understanding of plant pest management
- Raise awareness about high-risk pathways and pest control efforts
- Educate the public on preventing the spread of pests in nurseries

Public schools are using the Citizen Scientist program curricula as part of new State middle school science standards.

The Department of Plant Industry at Clemson University used Farm Bill funding to create Citizen Scientists in the Junior Invasive Inspectors Program. This initiative teaches middle school youth to conduct surveys for invasive forest pests. Students learn the identification and biology of trees and insects as well as the importance of invasive biology. Citizen Scientists are rewarded for continued survey work and pest reporting on the Junior Invasives Web site.

Enhance mitigation and rapid response capabilities



- Develop pest management tools
- Reduce potential adverse impacts
- Minimize spread of detected plant pests

Swift, coordinated response to a new pest threat protects grapes, apples, and stone fruits and more than 70 types of ornamental and woody trees.

Farm Bill funds are advancing efforts to eradicate the spotted lanternfly, an invasive pest that could seriously harm U.S. grape, orchard, and logging industries. Federal, State, and local officials started a tree-banding program in Pennsylvania to detect and contain the pest's spread. The program has seen great success, due largely to its collaborative approach and public support. Strategies being developed and tested now will be crucial for long-term lanternfly mitigation.

National Clean Plant Network



Start clean, stay clean

- Build interconnections and partnerships to enhance clean plant center capacity
- Conduct plant pathogen diagnostics and therapy
- Establish foundations of clean source plants

The NCPN protects U.S. specialty crops from harmful plant pests and diseases and ensures the global competitiveness of U.S. producers through high standards for clean plant programs.

The Bureau of Citrus Budwood Registration produces disease-free trees for growers and nurseries. Its close location to citrus production in central Florida is convenient for serving nurseries, though it is challenging to be near a high concentration of disease vectors. National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) Farm Bill funds helped the Bureau convert its greenhouse to provide a safer, more secure facility and better protect the clean nursery stock it offers to Florida citrus growers.

Project Funding

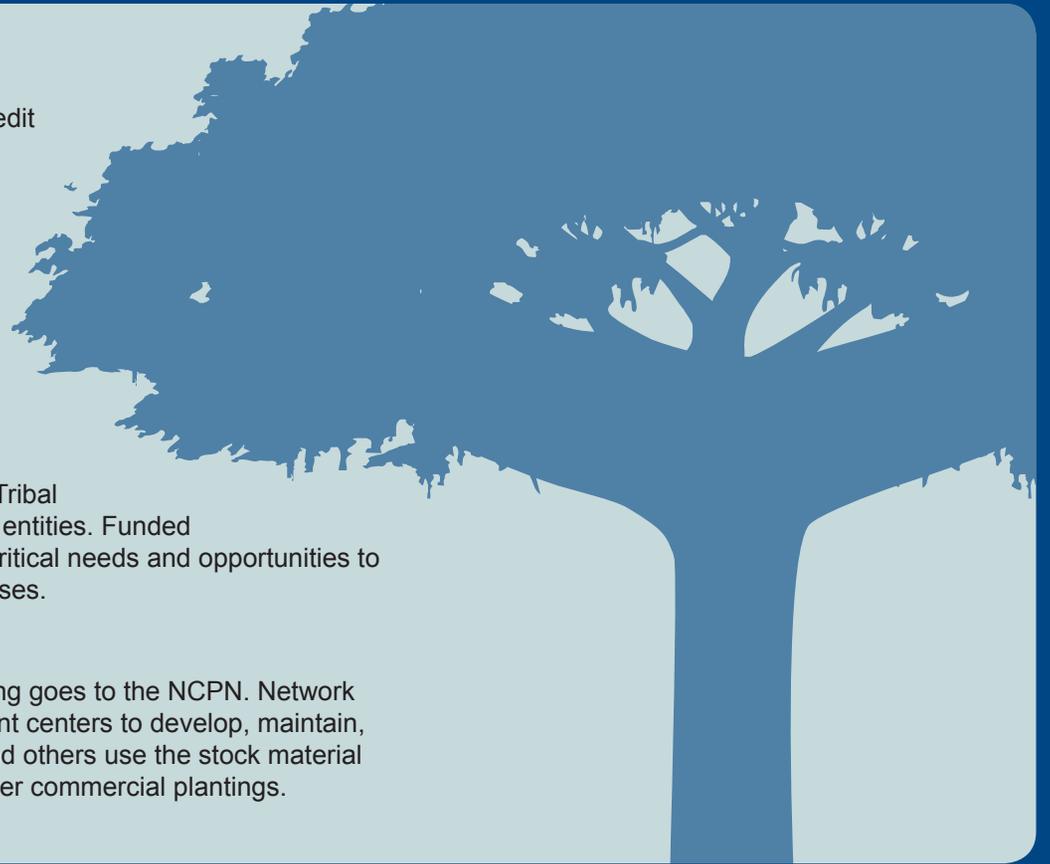
Section 10007 authorizes \$62.5 million per year in Commodity Credit Corporation funding from fiscal year (FY) 2014 to FY 2017 and \$75 million per year in FY 2018 and beyond. Since 2009, APHIS has funded more than 1,700 Farm Bill projects across the United States. This funding supports two specific areas: the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program and the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN).

Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program

Under this program, funding is available for cooperators in all U.S. States and Territories. This includes State and Federal agencies, Tribal Nations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, and private entities. Funded projects are organized around specific goal areas that represent critical needs and opportunities to strengthen, prevent, detect, and mitigate invasive pests and diseases.

National Clean Plant Network

Each year, at least \$5 million of the Farm Bill Section 10007 funding goes to the NCPN. Network funding supports established university and government clean plant centers to develop, maintain, and provide foundation stock of select specialty crops. Industry and others use the stock material to start or regrow clean plant orchards, vineyards, groves, and other commercial plantings.



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