
Farm Bill 2008 – Sec. 10201(d) Cooperative Agreement Program

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WORK PLAN FORMAT

Cover Page

Name of Project: National Audit-Based Nursery Certification Project

One or Two Sentence Project Description:

The National Plant Board will establish a work group to evaluate the findings of audit-based certification studies funded under the Farm Bill; and to determine the feasibility of developing and harmonizing national standards for a voluntary audit-based nursery certification program.

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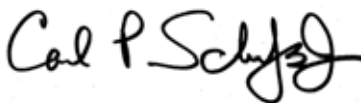
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Name, Title, and Signature of the Official Authorized by the Institution/Agency to Apply for Federal Financial Assistance:

Mr. Carl P. Schulze, NPB President



Date: July 16, 2010

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APHIS Agreement No:

**FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2010
WORK PLAN**

National Plant Board

National Audit-Based Nursery Certification Project

The National Plant Board will establish a work group to evaluate the findings of audit-based certification studies funded under the Farm Bill; and to determine the feasibility of developing and harmonizing national standards for a voluntary audit-based nursery certification program.

I. Public Purpose – Project Introduction and Program Need:

Section 10201(d) of the 2008 Farm Bill directs the Secretary to provide funds and technical assistance to State and local agencies working with specialty crop growers and organizations for the development and implementation of audit-based certification systems to mitigate the risk of plant pests in the movement of plants and plant products; and nursery plant pest risk management systems, to enable growers to identify and prioritize nursery plant pests and diseases of regulatory significance; to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of those plant pests and diseases; and to reduce the risk of and mitigate those plant pests and diseases.

II. Cooperative Interest of USDA in Collaborating Jointly with the National Plant Board in this Program:

The USDA is interested in collaborating jointly with the National Plant Board (NPB) because it is a non-profit organization of the plant pest regulatory agencies of each of the states and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Through our individual state laws and rules, our member agencies have the legal authorities for regulating the domestic movement of nursery stock within and without each State and Commonwealth, and for the operation of programs for the certification of nursery stock.

III. Alignment with the USDA Strategic Goals and Mission Areas: (See also Appendix I)

PPQ Program Goal 1: Optimize the effectiveness of PPQ's Pest Exclusion/Prevention activities.

Objectives:

- 1.11 - Work to overcome phytosanitary barriers to increase agricultural exports in support of rural economies.
- 1.12 - Develop and harmonize audit-based Nursery Certification Programs including the harmonization of different certification programs, audit and inspection training for cooperators, and launching.

IV. Stakeholder Participation and Industry Focus

A. Stakeholder Participation:

Eastern Plant Board
Central Plant Board
Western Plant Board
Southern Plant Board
American Nursery and Landscape Association
Horticultural Inspection Society
USDA APHIS PPQ

B. Industry Focus:

In the event a national audit-based nursery certification program is implemented, producers and retailers of nursery and greenhouse crops should benefit from (1) expedited interstate and international shipments, a reduction in the dissemination of plant pests associated with movement of greenhouse and nursery stock. Commercial tree fruit, small fruit growers and specialty crop growers and consumers will benefit by receiving higher quality, pest and pathogen free plant material,. In addition, the program is expected to safeguard agricultural and natural resources.

V. Project Description

A workgroup coordinated by the National Plant Board will evaluate the United States Nursery Certification Program (USNCP) pilot and the United States Greenhouse Certification Program (USGCP), the Grower Assisted Inspection Program (GAIP) developed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the U.S.- Netherlands Bulb and Perennial Preclearance Program as models. (And if needed, the Canadian Nursery Certification Program developed by the Canadian government to address NAPPO RSPM No. 24) These programs use an audit-based certification systems approach to identify and mitigate plant pest and disease risks.

The work group will conduct a scoping session at the National Plant Board annual meeting, followed by teleconferences and workshops to analyze existing State nursery certification laws and regulations to determine where opportunities to incorporate a voluntary audit-based certification system reside and identify hurdles or barriers that would prevent implementation. The workgroup also will work with industry groups to identify hurdles or barriers that would prevent implementation by industry.

The National Plant Board workgroup will explore the applicability of ISO 9001 2008 as a model for Quality Management.

The National Plant Board will identify and facilitate staff training (trainer-the-trainer) through training workshops held by regional plant boards and the chapters of the Horticultural Inspection Society to enable inspection staff, and thereby growers, to identify and prioritize nursery plant pests and diseases of regulatory significance.

The workgroup will review the new audit-based program developed for tree fruit under the Clean Plant Network, and analyze existing State tree fruit and small fruit nursery certification laws and regulations to determine opportunities where audit-based certification systems may best ensure that tree fruit and small fruit nursery stock produced from plant propagative stock, generated through the National Clean Plant Network (Section 10202), is produced under harmonized requirements to minimize the spread of plant pests and diseases.

VI. Budget Plan

ITEM	APHIS Funds	COOPERATOR FUNDS (Show even if zero)
PERSONNEL:		
temporary		
Intern \$20 per hour for 700 hrs	\$14,000	0
Subtotal	\$14,000	0
FRINGE		
Temporary (7.65%)	\$980	
Subtotal	\$980	
TRAVEL:		0
Meetings, Workshops, Conferences	\$40,000	
Other Travel	\$5,000	
Subtotal	\$45,000	
EQUIPMENT	0	0
SUPPLIES	\$2520	
CONTRACTUAL	\$0	0
OTHER		
Guest speakers (SMEs), meeting support	\$11,500	
Printing, publications	\$3,000	
Admin.	\$15,000	
Conference call fees	\$8,000	
Subtotal	\$37,500	
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$100,000	0
INDIRECT COSTS	0	0
TOTAL	\$100,000	0
Cost Share Information	100%	0%

Provide budget details that reflect the expenditures for the project presented (or that will be presented) on Standard Form 424A and expand on the details either in the form of a descriptive budget narrative or as suggested below:

VII. Milestones/Time Tables and Performance Measures

- July 2010** - A panel discussion will be conducted at the July, 2010 Annual Meeting of the National Plant Board to develop recommendations and objectives for the steering committee.
- August 2010** - Formation of a steering committee.
- September 2010** - A subgroup will conduct a workshop on the U.S. - Netherlands Bulb and Perennial Preclearance Program.
- Sept - Nov 2010** - A series of conference calls will continue through the fall,
- Dec. 2010** - A face to face meeting will be held during early December.
- Jan/Mar 2011** - Coordination with USDA, APHIS, PPQ, Horticultural Inspection Societies, and SPROs will take place to identify training needs.
- Spring 2010** - Update/information gathering presentations will be provided at the Regional Plant Board Meetings to SPROs; additionally outreach activities will take place to engage the industry and interested stakeholders.
- June 2010** - A Face to Face meeting with regulators and industry to build a consensus on harmonizing interstate audit based inspections culminating in development of a pilot audit based program.
- Summer 2011** - Train the trainer workshops for SPROs and Inspectors on pests and pest risks of regulatory importance will be initiated.
- August, 2011** - A white paper summarizing recommendations and progress will be provided to USDA APHIS PPQ by.

VIII. Principle Investigator and Other Contact Information (Including APHIS/PPQ):

Institution Name: National Plant Board

Principle Investigator	Grants and Agreements Contact
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<p>Other Persons Crucial to this Program</p>	
<p>Walker (Gray) Haun Tennessee Department of Agriculture Plant Certification & Apiary Program PO Box 40627, Melrose Station Nashville, TN 37204 phone: (615) 837-5338 fax: (615) 837-5246 email: Walker.Haun@state.tn.us</p>	<p>Kenneth J. Rauscher Michigan Department of Agriculture Pesticide and Plant Pest Mgmt. Division P. O. Box 30017 Lansing, MI 48909 phone: (517) 373-9746 fax: (517) 719-1679 email: rauscherk@michigan.gov</p>
<p>USDA, APHIS, PPQ – Program Contacts (Authorized Representative)</p>	
<p>Dr. Robert S. Johnson, Director USDA, APHIS, PPQ Plant Health Programs Quarantine Policy, Analysis and Support Staff Accreditation and Certification Services 4700 River Road, Unit 60 Riverdale, MD 20737 Phone: (301) 734-5055 Fax : (301) 734-5269 E-mail: Robert.S.Johnson@aphis.usda.gov</p>	<p>Ms. Tammy Kolt, Administrative Support USDA, APHIS, PPQ, Plant Health Programs Quarantine Policy, Analysis and Support Staff Accreditation and Certification Services 4700 River Road – Unit 60 Riverdale, MD 20737 Phone: (301) 734-5252 Fax: (301) 734-5269 E-Mail: Tammy.Kolt@aphis.usda.gov</p>

Appendix 1 – Alignment with USDA and APHIS Strategic Goals and Mission Areas

USDA Departmental Goals and Objectives:

USDA Strategic Goal 4 – *Enhance Protection and Safety of the Nation’s Agricultural and Food Supply*

Objective 4.2 – Reduce the Number and Severity of Agricultural Pest and Disease Outbreaks

USDA Secretary Priorities:

- Promotion of a safe, sufficient, and nutritious food supply for all Americans and for people around the world.
- Pursue programs that provide benefits to small producers and distributors.

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Mission and Organizational Priorities: (Source – USDA/APHIS Strategic Plan FY 2007-2012)

APHIS Mission Priority 1 – *Strengthen our Safeguarding System Domestically and in Other Countries*

APHIS Mission Priority 3 – *Facilitate Safe Agricultural Trade through Effective Management of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Issues*

USDA, APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies:

PPQ Crosscutting Goals and Objectives:

PPQ Crosscutting Goal 1: *Strengthen PPQ’s Outreach & Communication with traditional & non-traditional stakeholders (NGO’s & Industry) including the general public.*

Objectives:

- 1.1 - Educate and raise the public’s general awareness of invasive species issues, communicating a clear and precise message through multiple communication modalities & channels.
- 1.4 - Ensure PPQ’s targeted and/or pest specific outreach efforts reinforce the overall outreach strategy.
- 1.5 - Ensure the communication process includes an effective mechanism to listen and take into account stakeholder and the public’s interests and concerns.
- 1.6 - Strengthen NGO and industry engagement & early involvement in PPQ’s mission related activities.
- 1.7 - Ensure the agency’s outreach efforts effectively connect American agriculture and the relevance of the agency’s mission to consumers.

PPQ Crosscutting Goal 2: *Expand and build partnerships and coalitions with PPQ's traditional & non-traditional State, Tribal, Federal and international partners* in carrying out the PPQ mission.*

Objectives:

- 2.2 - Expand and strengthen the network and activities with traditional & non-traditional State, Tribal, Federal and international partners through enhanced communication and collaboration.
- 2.4 - Build and strengthen strategic alliances among the federal agencies responsible for responding to new pest outbreaks.

PPQ Crosscutting Goal 3: *Enhance PPQ's Science & Technology foundation, including social science to fully support PPQ's policy and regulatory decision making and operations and to maintain PPQ's international leadership in plant health issues*

Objectives:

- 3.1 - Ensure the best available scientific tools are provided in a timely basis to support emergency and domestic program operations while maintaining a focus on emerging technological innovations for future use.

PPQ Strategic Program Goals and Objectives:

PPQ Program Goal 1: *Optimize the effectiveness of PPQ's Pest Exclusion/Prevention activities.*

Objectives:

- 1.11 - Work to overcome phytosanitary barriers to increase agricultural exports in support of rural economies.
- 1.12 - Develop and harmonize audit-based Nursery Certification Programs including the harmonization of different certification programs, audit and inspection training for cooperators, and launching.

PPQ Program Goal 2: *Enhance PPQ's capacity to detect the presence of new exotic plant health pest threats as early as possible so that an appropriate and timely response can be launched.*

Objectives:

- 2.1 - Enhance the gathering and analysis of all available data to efficiently and effectively make informed decisions and to deploy resources to detect pests as early as possible.
- 2.2 - Target domestic inspection activities at vulnerable points that result from the movement of products and commodities potentially carrying pests of regulatory significance.
- 2.4 - Support science-based best management practices (BMPs) and risk mitigation practices to exclude, contain, and control regulated plant pests from the nursery production system.
- 2.7 - Increase the likelihood that the public will adopt behaviors to help mitigate the introduction or spread of exotic pests/diseases.