

National Plant Board Meeting 2010
“Audit Certification” Session/Panel Notes
Tuesday, July 27, 2010
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Presentation Session

- **Nursery Self-Certification**
 - o Nursery Conducts inspection, not the State inspector.
 - This is similar to our Compliance Agreements already.
- **Evaluation of the Nursery Audit-based System pilot is being conducted.**
 - o Survey of pests being moved in Domestic trade.
 - o Comparison of various Certification Programs already in use.
- **APHIS & NPB have yet to meet and talk about if/how the Audit-based Certification is progress.**
 - o Evaluation of performance.
 - o Voluntary vs. mandatory?
 - o International vs. Domestic?
- **What has been learned?**
 - o Inspections & Testing procedures are “leaky” (hit & miss).
 - o Most nurseries are not going to upgrade/change on their own.
 - o There is no incentive for nurseries to upgrade/change.
 - o Money is tight.
 - o If playing field isn’t level, people (nurseries) don’t want to participate.
 - o Without clean plant sources, all future Certification is pointless.

Discussion Session

- **What problems are we trying to solve?**
 - o Limited resources.
 - o Nursery industry buy-in.
 - o One & only one Certification/Inspection system for the entire United States.
 - APHIS can’t come up with one, and NPB come up with another.
 - o Public education as to why clean plants are a benefit.
 - o Will other/all States accept the Audit-based Certification program?
 - East vs. West Certification requirements.
 - o Implementation of program on nurseries that deal in specialty crops, or have a low number of varieties of plant materials vs. those nurseries with a lot of different types of stock.
 - Audit-based program has been developed/designed to only deal with facilities that deal in 1 or 2 types of stock.
 - o States have different laws and regulations that may prohibit them from using the program, or may have to change or modified first.
 - o Can the program be sustained over the long run?
 - o How much time & labor is involved on behalf of the States?