



governmentattic.org

"Rummaging in the government's attic"

Description of document: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Report to Congress for Fiscal Years 2011-2013

Request date: 22-November-2014

Released date: 17-December-2014

Posted date: 29-September-2015

Source of document: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
FOIA/PA Officer
4700 River Road, Unit 50
Riverdale, MD 20737-1232
Fax: 301-734-5941
Email: FOIA.Officer@aphis.usda.gov

The governmentattic.org web site ("the site") is noncommercial and free to the public. The site and materials made available on the site, such as this file, are for reference only. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals have made every effort to make this information as complete and as accurate as possible, however, there may be mistakes and omissions, both typographical and in content. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused, or alleged to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the information provided on the governmentattic.org web site or in this file. The public records published on the site were obtained from government agencies using proper legal channels. Each document is identified as to the source. Any concerns about the contents of the site should be directed to the agency originating the document in question. GovernmentAttic.org is not responsible for the contents of documents published on the website.



Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

December 17, 2014

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

This is in response to your November 22, 2014, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for information for the most recent report on plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention produced under 7 U.S.C. 7721(c)(3). Your request was received in this office on November 24, 2014, and assigned case number 2015-APHIS-00834-F.

Legislative and
Public Affairs

The Plant Protection and Quarantine program employees conducted a thorough search of their files and enclosed are nine pages of documents in response to your request. These documents are appropriate for release in their entirety, without redactions.

Freedom of
Information

4700 River
Road
Unit 50
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232

Although no information was withheld or denied, you still have the right to challenge the adequacy of our search. If you choose to appeal, your appeal must be in writing and received within 45 days of the date of this letter to the following address:

Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Ag Box 3401
Washington, DC 20250-3401

Please refer to 2015-APHIS-00834-F in your appeal letter and add the words "FOIA Appeal" to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted.

Because the cost to process your request is less than \$25.00, all fees have been waived. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Janice Shipman of my staff at (301) 851-4038.

Sincerely,

For
Tonya G. Woods
Director
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosures

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

**Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention
Report to Congress for Fiscal Years 2011-2013**

Introduction

The *Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008*, otherwise known as the 2008 Farm Bill, provided \$50 million in Commodity Credit Corporation funding annually from fiscal years (FY) 2011-2013 for implementation of *Section 10201, Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention*. Under this provision, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has made funds available for early plant pest detection and surveillance, threat identification and mitigation of plant pests and diseases, and technical assistance in the development and implementation of audit-based certification systems and nursery plant pest risk management systems. These funds allowed APHIS to support national, State, Tribal, and other stakeholder efforts to improve pest detection and mitigation activities and to ensure that specialty crops remain a viable segment of U.S. agriculture by protecting them from high-consequence plant pests and diseases. This report outlines accomplishments from FY 2011-2013 under the program.

Overall Progress

APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program provided funding for 344 projects in FY 2011, 345 projects in FY 2012, and 398 projects in FY 2013 and consistently funded over 50 percent of the project proposals received each year.

Fiscal Year 2011		
	Projects Received	Projects Funded
Total number	539	344
Total dollar amount	\$124,155,981	\$50,000,000

Fiscal Year 2012		
	Projects Received	Projects Funded
Total number	523	345
Total dollar amount	\$97,113,765	\$50,000,000

Fiscal Year 2013		
	Projects Received	Projects Funded
Total number	537	398
Total dollar amount	\$87,591,600	\$47,450,000*

*Reduced due to sequestration

Since this program was created by the 2008 Farm Bill, APHIS has funded over 1,000 projects throughout all 50 States and U.S. Territories. These projects have strengthened PPQ's ability to protect U.S. agriculture and natural resources from foreign plant pests and diseases in six overarching goal areas: enhancing plant pest/disease analysis and survey; targeting domestic inspection activities at vulnerable points in the safeguarding continuum; enhancing and strengthening pest identification (ID) and ID technology; safeguarding nursery production; enhancing mitigation capabilities; and conducting outreach and education about these issues. These goals contain key implementation strategies for meeting objectives outlined in *Section 10201*.

Goal 1: Enhance plant pest/disease analysis and survey

Strategies: Identify risk factors and high-risk pathways by analysis of available data; Target high priority pests for survey along national and local high-risk pathways; Fully fund high-priority nationally directed pest surveys in support of specialty crops, trade, and regulatory activities; Fully fund state-specific pest surveys in support of state pest risk and priorities.

Goal 2: Target domestic inspection activities at vulnerable points in the safeguarding continuum

Strategies: Promote and expand inland inspections of containers and mail facilities, where possible; Expand the use of canine teams for domestic survey activities; Promote increased levels of inspection for regulated articles for interstate movement.

Goal 3: Enhance and strengthen pest identification and technology

Strategies: Improve all aspects of early detection resources; Enhance pest screening expertise and taxonomic capacity; Increase the deployment of molecular diagnostic tools; Develop and implement a comprehensive traps and lures management program.

Goal 4: Safeguard nursery production

Strategies: Develop science-based best management practices and risk mitigation practices to exclude, contain, and control regulated pests from the nursery production chain; Develop and harmonize audit-based Nursery Certification Programs.

Goal 5: Conduct outreach and education to increase understanding, acceptance, and support of plant pest and disease eradication and control efforts

Strategies: Prevent the introduction or spread of high-consequence pests into and around the United States, particularly in high-risk areas; Develop people to strengthen the safeguarding system; Increase the number of people actively looking for and reporting high-consequence pests at vulnerable points along high-risk pathways.

Goal 6: Enhance mitigation capabilities

Strategies: Improve the mechanism to assess and decide on an appropriate short-term course of action to a new pest; Utilize initial response protocols for the overarching goals of containment, control, or eradication at the onset of plant health emergencies; Prepare the agency and collaborative programs in the use of the Incident Command System; Provide technical assistance prior to, during, and immediately following the development of a plant health emergency through the development of New Pest Response Guidelines (Action Plans) and other mitigation tactics and strategies.

Section 10201 Actual Funding by Goal Area

Goal	FY11	FY12	FY13
1. Enhanced Analysis and Survey	\$16,616,332	\$16,565,733	\$18,265,117
2. Domestic Inspection	\$7,091,281	\$6,933,929	\$6,303,438
3. Pest ID and Technology	\$7,899,092	\$6,266,772	\$5,123,629
4. Nursery Systems	\$2,812,800	\$2,520,198	\$2,092,669
5. Outreach and Education	\$3,988,627	\$3,963,050	\$3,674,797
6. Mitigation Capability	\$11,591,869	\$13,750,319	\$11,990,350
Total	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$47,450,000*

*Reduced due to sequestration

Description of Fiscal Year 2011-2013 Projects by Goal Area

GOAL 1

Enhance Plant Pest/Disease Analysis and Survey

Under this goal, APHIS funds many surveys for pests of national significance such as plum pox virus, *Phytophthora ramorum*, European grapevine moth, and other grape and honey bee pests (including sampling to help determine the cause of colony collapse disorder). These surveys enhance protection through rapid detection of plant pests that threaten the operations of growers and nursery owners. They also help growers, nursery owners, and Federal and State regulatory agencies avoid costly control measures associated with large and significant plant pest infestations. In addition, PPQ commenced cooperative projects to analyze vulnerable pathways for specialty crops and to develop risk and economic assessment tools to determine survey and mitigation priorities. Toward these ends, the program is developing a pilot project with the nursery and seed industries.

The program allocated more than \$50 million to projects in this goal area from FY 2011-2013.

GOAL 2

Target Domestic Inspection at Vulnerable Points in the Safeguarding Continuum

Projects in this goal area target domestic inspection activities at vulnerable points in the movement of products and commodities with the potential to carry pests of regulatory significance. Several projects in this area involved training canine teams for domestic survey detection activities in California. Such teams may be deployed at strategic locations to enhance the State's efforts in mitigating pests that get through interstate ports-of-entry undetected, including deliberate introductions of illegal goods. Other projects provided funds to train dogs to monitor critical entry points or interdiction stations in Texas and Florida and to detect snails. The snail dog teams are capable of clearing cargo much faster than humans alone and with greater accuracy. Dog teams have also improved detection and increased efficiency, conserving APHIS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection funds and other resources.

The program allocated over \$20 million for projects in this goal area from FY 2011-2013.

GOAL 3

Enhance and Strengthen Pest Identification and Technology

The objective of this goal area is to develop, provide training for, and deploy survey procedures and tools that improve our ability to rapidly detect and accurately identify pests of regulatory significance. Distributing the most effective surveillance tools available to the States in a timely manner increases the likelihood of early detection of exotic pests before they become established and create significant economic or environmental damage. Project examples include enhanced laboratory capacity and training of cooperators in high-risk States, strategic research on Caribbean pests that threaten the United States, and the development and implementation of a National Survey Supply Program to oversee timely procurement and delivery of quality survey supplies to APHIS field personnel and State cooperators. Other examples include online resources for rapid identification of selected plant pests of regulatory concern, investigation into rapid pest identification tools to detect pests of greatest threat to U.S. agriculture, and offshore initiatives to optimize early detection programs.

The program allocated over \$19 million for projects in this goal area from FY 2011-2013.

GOAL 4

Safeguard Nursery Production

Activities included in this goal area include developing best management and risk mitigation practices that are science-based and exclude, contain, and control regulated plant pests from the nursery production chain. This goal area also includes developing and harmonizing audit-based nursery certification programs. These activities help large and small nursery stock producers and distributors mitigate pest risks, reduce operational costs, and enhance the value of nursery stock they produce. A primary area of focus includes ongoing work on control and management practices for *Phytophthora ramorum* at the National Ornamentals Research Site at Dominican University of California. Another focus is a set of interrelated projects that form a broad-based initiative supporting the development, validation, and implementation of audit-based systems for safeguarding nursery production; and individual and multi-State initiatives for developing harmonized nursery stock certification programs for high-risk specialty crops of economic importance including fruit trees, blueberries, and strawberries.

The program allocated more than \$7 million for projects in this goal area from FY 2011-2013.

GOAL 5**Conduct Outreach and Education**

Under this goal area, the program is working to engage the public in early detection efforts. Funded initiatives include the 12-State Northeast Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Program, projects to engage botanical gardens in pest monitoring and outreach, a Pacific Northwest Firewood Outreach project in 3 States, a Small Farms Outreach project, and outreach to Tribal Nations across the United States. Funding was also provided for the development of eLearning modules for pest screening and increasing diagnostic capacity, a laurel wilt symposium, projects to enlist volunteers for Asian longhorned beetle/emerald ash borer surveys in 16 States, and a Web site for citrus health.

The program allocated more than \$11 million for projects in this goal area from FY 2011-2013.

GOAL 6**Enhance Mitigation Capabilities**

Through this goal area, APHIS provides technical assistance prior to, during, and immediately following a plant-health emergency. These funds provide for small, quick, and effective mitigation efforts that reduce the impact to growers, releasing them from quarantine more quickly and allowing them to resume production activities. Examples of successful projects include gypsy moth control, fruit fly mitigation in Florida and California, grasshopper mitigation, and applied research on citrus pest mitigation. Other examples include procurement of survey supplies for emergency programs, immediate research on wood boring beetle attractants to improve trap effectiveness, coconut rhinoceros beetle mitigation in Guam, and plum pox virus eradication in New York State.

The program allocated more than \$37 million for projects in this goal area from FY 2011-2013.

For additional details about fiscal year projects, please see APHIS' Web site, www.aphis.usda.gov/section10201.

Action Plans for High-Consequence Plant Pests and Diseases

APHIS evaluates data about pests and the factors that contribute to their introduction and establishment in the United States by various means. PPQ develops New Pest Response Guidelines (NPRG) as a framework for providing methods and tools to contain, control, or eradicate a plant pest. “Generic” NPRGs are organized by grouping taxonomically related plant pests and describing detection and control methods that *may* apply to any pest within that group. Pest-specific NPRGs are developed when the plant pest does not fit the generic guidelines because of its unique characteristics, as well as when a plant pest of quarantine significance is of immediate threat to the United States based on pathway. The NPRGs serve to jumpstart preparation of site- or situation-specific action plans for high-consequence plant pests and diseases. The action plans may need to address environmentally sensitive areas, unique pest mitigation issues, site accessibility issues, potential impact to threatened and endangered species or wetlands, and other issues. Because action plans may be too specific to help us prepare for invasive pest introductions, APHIS strives to use NPRGs as a way to engage experts and stakeholders in documenting reasonable measures for pest mitigation and identifying areas that need further research. The goal is to develop these guidelines prior to the introduction of an invasive pest.

APHIS provided funding to USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to develop NPRGs for plant diseases that ARS studies under the National Plant Disease Recovery System (NPDRS). ARS is the lead agency in addressing NPDRS, and ARS commissioned scientists to prepare NPDRS documents under an agreement with The American Phytopathological Society. This project allows APHIS and ARS to develop a coordinated approach for plant diseases that could pose threats to U.S. food security. The result is a comprehensive set of documents for preemptive research, preparedness to mitigate specific plant diseases, and longer term mitigation if necessary. APHIS is also collaborating with postdoctoral researchers from North Carolina State University to develop NPRGs. APHIS provided the following funding for the development of NPRGs:

FY 2011: \$180,250
FY 2012: \$185,270
FY 2013: \$211,133

NPRGs completed during the fiscal years of 2011-2013 include:

- 1) Exotic Wood-borer and Bark Beetles (*Agrilus biguttatus*, *Monochamus sutor*, *M. saltuarius*, *Platypus quercivorus*, *Tetropium castaneum*, *T. fuscum*, *Tomicus destruens*) (2011)
- 2) Cotton Seed Bug (*Oxycarenus hyalinipennis*) (2011)
- 3) *Phytophthora* Species in the Environment and Nursery Setting (*Phytophthora alni*, *P. alticola*, *P. frigida*, *P. austrocedrae*, *P. boehmeriae*, *P. captiosa*, *P. fallax*, *P. colocasiae*, *P. gallica*, *P. idaei*, *P. iranica*, *P. italica*, *P. kernoviae*, *P. melonis*, *P. multivesiculata*, *P. multivora*, *P. pinifolia*, *P. polonica*, *P. porri*, *P. primulae*, *P. psychrophila*, *P. quercina*, *P. tentaculata*, *P. uliginosa*) (2011)
- 4) Red Palm Weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*) (2011)
- 5) Tomato Leaf Miner (*Tuta absoluta*) (2011)
- 6) Late Wilt of Corn (*Harpophora maydis*) (2011)
- 7) Variegated Golden Tortrix (*Archips xylosteanus*) (2012)

- 8) Tremex Wood Wasp (*Tremex fuscicornis*) (2012)
- 9) Summer Fruit Tortrix (*Adoxophyes orana*) (2012)
- 10) Candidatus Phytoplasma spp. (*Ca. P. mali*, *Ca. P. australiense*, *Ca. P. prunorum*) (2012)
- 11) Plum Fruit Moth (*Cydia funebrana*) (2012)
- 12) *Dendrolimus* spp. (*D. sibiricus* - Siberian Silk Moth; *D. superans* - Sakhalin Silk Moth; *D. pini* - Pine-tree Lappet) (2012)
- 13) Scots Pine Blister Rust (*Cronatium flaccidum*) (2012)
- 14) Small Banded Pine Weevil (*Pissodes castaneus*) (2013)
- 15) Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) (2013)
- 16) Old World Bollworm (*Helicoverpa armigera*) (2013)
- 17) Rice Stem or Ufra Nematode (*Ditylenchus angustus*) (2013)
- 18) Rice Blast (*Magnaporthe oryzae*) (2013)
- 19) Red Leaf Blotch of Soybean (*Coniothyrium glycines*) (2013)

Being prepared for the introduction of an invasive pest is important in mitigating significant economic and environmental damage to the United States. Once a pest becomes established or spreads significantly, the cost to eradicate, suppress or manage it can be in the millions—not to mention the cost in lost crops and damage to the ecosystem. NPRGs allow plant health officials to quickly evaluate and respond to a plant pest or disease detection rapidly before it has a chance to become established or spread to other areas. This can result in significant cost savings, as it avoids the high costs of a long-term management program and helps maintain access to international markets for U.S. plants and plant products.



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUL 16 2014

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, I am writing to provide a report on the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention program.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and its partners are using the Farm Bill funds provided through this program to build on existing early detection efforts and develop new strategies to identify pests and diseases that pose threats to U.S. agriculture, as well as ways to mitigate them.

The Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program is allowing APHIS to bridge the gaps among a myriad of Federal and State pest detection and surveillance programs and increase the diagnostic capacity for plant pests and diseases. APHIS will continue to keep State and stakeholder needs in mind as we implement this program and allocate funds. As part of this effort, we have actively sought our partners' input in developing goals, objectives, strategies, milestones, and timelines. We will continue to seek their feedback, evaluating and adjusting the plan as needed to reach our goals and ensure that available funding is distributed fairly, effectively, and efficiently.

Enclosed is a document describing APHIS' use of Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program funds for fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013. I appreciate the Committee's interest in this matter. Similar letters are being sent to Congressman Collin C. Peterson, Senator Debbie Stabenow, and Senator Thad Cochran.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Vilsack".

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure