Update from the National Plant Board

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Update outline:

• What is the NPB?
• SANC / Audit-based certification programs
• NPB & PPQ Strategic Alliance Planning
• Other

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What is the National Plant Board?

• A non-profit organization of the plant pest regulatory agencies in each of the states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and Guam.

• Each member state will have varying plant pest concerns, organizational structures, and varying authorities, rules, and regulatory tools at their disposal.

• However, each member state has in common a responsibility for plant health and plant pest regulatory issues, and coordinates with state, federal, and industry partners to achieve goals.
The NPB builds on its membership’s strengths in order to:

• Protect agriculture, horticulture, forestry and the environment on state, national and international levels.

• Collaborate and communicate effectively with public and private agencies and organizations on plant health and plant pest regulatory issues which affect the states.

• Foster effective and harmonized plant health programs.

• Make recommendations for the promotion of efficiency, harmony and uniformity in and among the states in the field of plant pest prevention and regulation.

• Act as an information clearinghouse on plant pest prevention and regulatory matters.

• Provide for a discussion of principles, policies and methods.
Goals: Promote a harmonized risk-based systems approach to nursery and greenhouse certification. This is a risk-based management system for plant production in order to ensure shipment of clean plants rather than relying on a “snapshot in time”.

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SANC Current Status:

• 8 nurseries in the pilot project at various stages. As this is a pilot, participating nurseries are still required to be compliant with state regulations for shipping plant material.

• All nurseries have initiated their risk assessments. Some nurseries have begun working on their SANC manual.

• Have had two training sessions for inspectors & SPROs.
SANC Pilot Program Next Steps:

• Review of manual(s) for approval
• Internal audit by nursery
• External audit by regulators
• SANC approval
SANC & Audit based certification programs, & opportunities in NH:

Inspectors in NH have taken advantage of NPB funding to train inspectors in audit-based certification programs, increasing program strength from EAB quarantine to participation in the USCGCP.
NH’s experience with the USCGCP:

• Participating nursery experienced difficulties with the PC issuing system, which did not mesh well with their business model.

• Worked with APHIS PPQ & got them involved in the USCGCP.

• Participation has resulted in process improvements for both the nursery and the DPI. Example of an effective industry/government collaboration.
NPB & PPQ Strategic Alliance planning:

Goals and justification: Recognize the *varying* resources and tools that federal and state plant protection organizations bring to the *shared* goals of safeguarding US agriculture.

Significant cooperation between the organizations, but goal of strategic planning is to improve joint efficiency in the following areas:

- Deregulation of pests
- Funding and cooperative agreements
- Enforcement/compliance cooperation
- Training
NPB & PPQ Strategic Alliance planning, what it looks like in NH:

• Enforcement and compliance: participated in pilot for testing developed compliance templates for coordinating responses to regulated pests.

• Training: will participate with federal and state partners in a tabletop ICS exercise in May.
Other accomplishments:

• Close to completion of the revised Japanese beetle harmonization plan

• EAB biocontrol release program: 21 states participating with a release of about 1.2 million wasps. Most states released 2 of the 3 parasitoids; some states released all 3. Numbers of wasps released varied greatly by state from 2,933 to 186,247. 77% of wasps released were *Tetrastichus planipennisi*, followed by *Oobius agrili* (22%) and *Spathius agrili* (1%)