

## **Farm Bill Section 10201: FY10 Spending Plan Development and Summary**

### **Background**

On May 22, 2008, H.R. 6124, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, otherwise known as the Farm Bill, became law. Title X, Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, Section 10201, Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention, directed the Secretary of Agriculture to make available Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds to implement the Section incrementally, with \$12 million in fiscal year (FY) 2009, \$45 million in FY 2010, and \$50 million in FY 2011 and thereafter.

The Farm Bill requires the Secretary to do the following:

1. In consultation with the National Plant Board and other interested parties, enter into a cooperative agreement with each State department of agriculture that agrees to conduct early plant pest detection and surveillance activities.
2. Establish a threat identification and mitigation program to determine and address threats to the domestic production of crops. In conducting the threat identification and mitigation program, the Secretary must develop risk assessments of the potential threat to the U.S. agricultural industry from foreign sources, collaborate with the National Plant Board, and implement action plans for high consequence plant pests and diseases.
3. Provide funds and technical assistance to specialty crop growers, organizations representing specialty crop growers, and State and local agencies working with specialty crop growers and organizations for the development and implementation of audit-based certification systems and nursery plant pest risk management systems, in collaboration with the nursery industry, research institutions, and other entities.

The Secretary charged the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) with implementing Section 10201. In response, APHIS engaged stakeholders, including the National Plant Board (NPB) and other interested parties, to develop an Implementation Plan that was released December 17, 2008. The Plan outlines six goal areas with proposed funding levels for each fiscal year:

- Enhance plant pest/disease analysis and survey
- Target domestic inspection activities at vulnerable points in the safeguarding continuum
- Enhance and strengthen pest identification and technology
- Safeguard nursery production
- Conduct outreach and education to increase public understanding, acceptance, and support of plant pest and disease eradication and control efforts
- Enhance mitigation capabilities

## **Status of FY09 Spending**

On April 17, 2009, APHIS received \$12 million for implementing Section 10201, along with other funding per the FY 2009 Omnibus funding bill. By May 13, 2009, APHIS finalized the FY 2009 spending plan based upon discussions with stakeholders. The FY 2009 spending plan allocated \$12 million for 63 projects with 21 States and other cooperators within the six goal areas of the Implementation Plan. A copy of the FY09 Spending Plan is available on the APHIS Web site:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/pest\\_detection/farm\\_bill.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pest_detection/farm_bill.shtml).

## **Developing the FY 2010 Spending Plan**

Planning for the FY 2010 Spending Plan began in May 2009. To inform the development of the plan and help identify the types of projects that should be funded in FY 2010, APHIS actively sought input and suggestions from interested stakeholders through a variety of venues, including a two-day stakeholder meeting in June 2009. APHIS received over 230 written suggestions. As in FY 2009, the FY 2010 Spending Plan builds upon the six goal areas described in the Implementation Plan.

To ensure that funds are used to achieve the goals of the Farm Bill and to promote a consistent, fair, and transparent process in the development of the FY 2010 Spending Plan, APHIS developed criteria to assist in the evaluation of suggestions received from external and internal sources. The criteria included:

- Alignment with 10201 “risk” criteria (number of international ports of entry in a state; volume of international passenger and cargo entry into the state; geographic location of the state and if the location or types of agricultural commodities produced in the state are conducive to agricultural pest and disease establishment due to climate, crop diversity, or natural resources of the state; and whether the Secretary has determined that an agricultural pest or disease in the state is a federal concern)
- Impact; potential benefit to specialty and other crops
- Sustainability; availability of existing infrastructure to support proposed activities beyond one year of 10201 funding
- Broad engagement of a number/variety of cooperators
- Potential benefit to small farms
- Feasibility; scope of work; methodology
- Performance measures; deliverables; communication plan

In September, APHIS met with members of the NPB and the Specialty Crops Farm Bill Alliance to share ideas obtained up to that time. Participants at that meeting identified additional criteria to consider when determining the relative merit of project suggestions. Some of the additional criteria included:

- Focus on pest(s)/disease(s) of significant regulatory concern
- Potential benefit to more than one state
- Represents a new, innovative, or entrepreneurial approach
- Includes clearly defined and achievable objectives
- Potential to yield significant and tangible results in one year

Teams were formed for each goal area and APHIS team leaders were charged with engaging Agency headquarters and regional staff, scientists from APHIS' Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, representatives from other USDA agencies (National Institutes for Food and Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Forest Service), and NPB - appointed representatives when developing a plan for their goal area. The teams reviewed the list of suggestions and applied the criteria to identify those that may merit funding. Those recommendations were then presented to the NPB and the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance, revisions were made, and the plan was finalized.

### **Proposed FY10 Spending Plan Summary**

Per the direction of the Farm Bill, APHIS will provide \$45 million in funding in FY 2010 to build and preserve critical plant health safeguarding initiatives across America. These funds will not only support state and national efforts to improve pest detection and mitigation activities, but also ensure that small farms and specialty crops remain a viable segment of our national agriculture by protecting them from high consequence plant pests and diseases.

More than 200 projects will be funded in FY 2010, with over 86% of the \$45 million being provided to over 50 cooperators in state departments of agriculture, universities, other USDA agencies, and non-profit organizations. Additionally, we estimate that there may be up to 400 jobs created or supported as a result of this funding. In instances where funds will be spent directly by APHIS, it will ultimately benefit the states by procuring traps and lures, developing new technologies for early detection and effective response, training personnel and dog teams, and other endeavors that can most effectively be accomplished at a national level.

## Section 10201 Fiscal Year 2010 Spending Plan Summary

GOAL	Prop. of Total	Funding	Projects*	Internal Jobs**	External Jobs**	External Projects	% of Goal to External Parties
1. Enhanced Analysis & Survey	38.8%	\$17,469,229	105	1.0	167.6	103	99.0%
2. Target Domestic Inspection Activities	11.3%	\$5,076,608	10	3.5	17.8	7	90.6%
3. Enhanced Pest Identification and Technology	11.9%	\$5,357,545	38	3	38	38	88.5%
4. Safeguard Nursery Production	4.4%	\$1,967,187	23	0.0	15.1	23	99.2%
5. Outreach and education programs	6.1%	\$2,750,316	16	0.0	14.1	16	100.0%
6. Enhanced Mitigation Capabilities	27.5%	\$12,379,116	18	14.0	123.2	17	94.5%
COUNT			210	22	376	204	
TOTAL	100.0%	\$45,000,000					95.3%
% to Cooperators		86.3%					Avg.

\*The number of projects will increase as cooperative agreements are negotiated and funds are obligated, especially for multistate projects such as pest survey.

\*\* The number of jobs is estimated based on written suggestions APHIS received for consideration when developing the spending plan, and/or upon knowledge of the number of people who typically would be engaged in certain activities and may be estimated as a percentage of a full time equivalent position.

Historically, approximately 30 new pests are detected each year in the United States, about half of which are considered significant and require mitigation. Some funds will be spent on new pest outbreaks over the course of FY 2010 to support rapid mitigation activities especially where States may need some assistance.

## **Next Steps**

APHIS will be requesting formal workplans to provide the necessary detail needed to initiate cooperative agreements with cooperators. In some cases, depending upon the time of year when work was originally intended, potential hiring freezes by organizations, and other circumstances, adjustments may need to be made to the plan. Once funding obligations are finalized, APHIS will post a copy of the final spending plan to the APHIS Farm Bill Section 10201 Web site at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/pest\\_detection/farm\\_bill.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pest_detection/farm_bill.shtml).

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