

On May 22, 2008, *H.R. 6124 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008*, otherwise known as the Farm Bill, became law. Within Title X, Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, *Section 10201, Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention*, the Secretary is directed to make available Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds to implement this Section incrementally, starting with \$12 million in FY09, \$45 million in FY10, and \$50 million in FY11 and thereafter.

The Farm Bill requires the Secretary to do the following under this section:

- (1) In consultation with the National Plant Board and other interested parties, to enter into a cooperative agreement with each State department of agriculture that agrees to conduct early plant pest detection and surveillance activities.
- (2) To 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 agricultural industry of the United States from foreign sources, collaborate with the National Plant Board, and implement action plans for high consequence plant pests and diseases.
- (3) To 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 to address plant pests.

In response, APHIS engaged several stakeholders, including the National Plant Board and other interested parties, in developing an Implementation Plan that was ultimately approved by the Department in December 2008. The Plan outlines six goals with proposed funding levels.

Although the Farm Bill was passed in May 2008, legal issues prevented APHIS and other USDA agencies from spending Commodity Credit Corporation funds for the purposes outlined in the Bill. Once these issues were resolved (through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009), APHIS worked diligently to finalize spending plans for Section 10201. On April 17, 2009, APHIS received the \$12 million for Section 10201 along with funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 through its apportionment from the Office of Management and Budget, per the FY 2009 Omnibus funding bill. Upon receipt, APHIS quickly prepared to implement a spending plan in support of each of the six goals described in the Implementation Plan.

In summary, 63 projects or procurements obligated \$12 million to 21 states, the USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, and towards measures to mitigate the threat of Asian Citrus Psyllid in northern Mexico to the southern U.S. The final FY 2009 funding under each of the six goals follows:

1) Enhanced analysis and surveys (\$3,387,573):

High risk pathway analysis	\$370,460
Plum Pox survey	\$582,658
Plant Health Information System (PHIS)- survey component	\$635,075
Enhance state surveys for high risk pests	\$1,640,611
Honeybee pest survey	\$158,769

2) Target domestic inspection activities (\$1,058,458):

Expand canine teams into new locations in California.	\$1,058,458
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3) Pest identification & technology enhancement (\$2,072,747):

PHIS- trap/lure procurement system	\$241,329
Bulk procure traps and lures	\$1,129,878
Diagnostic support for high threat arthropods	\$79,384
Develop and deliver molecular diagnostics	\$595,578
Cryopreservation for fruit fly production facility	\$26,579

4) Safeguarding nursery production (\$1,363,334):

Establish a National Ornamentals Research Site at Dominican University in California (NORSUDUC)	\$1,053,234
Support state oversight of the research site	\$52,923
Model regulation for a state nursery certification program	\$69,858
National nursery virus certification program pilot	\$91,690
Audit-based state nursery certification systems training	\$25,770
Audit-based state nursery certification systems- outreach	\$69,858

5) Outreach and education (\$1,142,641):

Forest pest outreach	\$1,014,964
Laurel Wilt outreach	\$31,754
Crop Biosecurity Curriculum/extension	\$95,923

6) Enhance mitigation capabilities (\$2,975,246):

Asian Citrus Psyllid mitigation in northern Mexico	\$899,459
Plum Pox Virus mitigation in NY and MI	\$745,799
Fruit fly mitigation in CA	\$659,420
Mitigation of golden nematode in targeted areas of NY	\$256,999
Laurel Wilt research focused on mitigation to protect avocados	\$169,353
Discovery of biological control agents to control Asian Citrus Psyllid	\$52,923
Cactus Moth mitigation in Louisiana	\$191,293

Each year, PPQ will convene a meeting during the summer to identify and establish potential priorities for the next fiscal year among the proposed activities. Key stakeholders with representatives from industry, the Specialty Crop Coalition, the NPB, tribal governments, PPQ and other Federal partners will be invited to participate in this planning meeting. This group will review the results achieved and identify emerging issues and pest threats to establish a proposed slate of activities for each of the major activity areas for the upcoming fiscal year.

APHIS has engaged a variety of external stakeholders to plan and implement Section 10201 for FY 2010 via web meetings, face-to-face meetings, email, online surveys, and written suggestions. A Spending Plan, based on all input, will be announced in November of 2010.

For further information on the Implementation Plan, webinars and meetings, see:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pest_detection/farm_bill.shtml