National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) and Farm Bill of 2008 Governance update

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The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 Sec. 10202

- Secretary shall establish a “National Clean Plant Network” to (1) produce clean propagative material and (2) maintain blocks of pathogen-tested plant material throughout USA.

- Specialty crops defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.

- Clean plant material made available to: (1) a State for certification programs; and (2) private nurseries and producers.

- Shall consult with State Departments of Agriculture and Universities; seek input from industry representatives, and use existing Federal or State facilities to the extent practical.

- Funding – Commodity Credit Corporation - $ 5,000,000 annually for each of 4 years (2009 - 2012); available until expended.
The principle function of NCPN

Imports → NCPN Centers → Clean Plant → Establishment of mother blocks → States Nurseries Growers

Domestic varieties
NCPN Farm Bill Funding – Proposed Logistics

- When will new funding be available?
  - Likely sometime after March 2009 (Federal FY 2009)
- By what mechanisms will funding be distributed?
  - Generally as multiyear cooperative agreements
  - Annual renewal based on audit of individual programs
- Will there be a call for proposals?
  - YES. Proposals will be entertained at tier 2 level
  - Integrated proposals with a national strategic plan
NCPN Farm Bill Funding – Proposed Logistics

- Will NCPN fund for new construction? Core Working Group (CWG) supports the new construction on case-by-case basis and is currently seeking legal input from the agencies.

- How will funding priorities/decisions be made? By the NCPN core working group (CWG), in consultation with National Governing Body
Summary of NCPN Governance

Tier 1

NCPN Governing Body

Tier 2

Fruit tree CPN Governing Body

Grape CPN (GCPN) Governing Body

Tier 3

No Regional networks at this time

Eastern GCPN

Western GCPN
Core Working Group

Murali Bandla – PPQ
Tom Bewick – CEREES
Gail Wisler - ARS

NCPN coordinator

Erich Rudyj - PPQ
National Governing Body Tier 1

Ken Rauscher – MI
Tom Wessels – WA
Wayne Dixon – FL
Joseph Postman – ARS
Bill Dickerson - PPQ
Forthcoming events in 2009

- Approval of business plan
- Signing of interagency MOU
- Call for funding proposals
- National Tier 2 meeting for grapes
- National Tier 1 meeting
Pending and ongoing initiatives

- Harmonization of state certification programs under NCPN flag
- Feasibility study for establishing G1/G2 grape motherblock for East
- Establishment of Eastern network for fruit tree program
NCPN and Certification--Options

(Ruth Welliver, PA)

Allow states to go on as they are, with separate programs.

--OR--

Develop flexible model certification regulations for adoption/adaptation by states. States can share resources by entering into MOUs with other states.

--OR--

Adopt a national standard that is voluntarily taken up by states, through an MOU with APHIS. APHIS could delegate structure and audit function back to NCPN.
Why are we going national?

(Ruth Welliver, PA)

- To meet industry needs.

And what if:

- There is a need for vineyard, but not nursery program in a State?
- There are differences in State programs that could affect a level playing field for interstate or international commerce?
- Nursery wants a program, but State has no regulations or infrastructure to carry out?
- State has regulations, but no expertise to evaluate new scientific information?