

USDA ANNOUNCES 2012 FARM BILL PROJECTS

APHIS Newsroom

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on May 24, 2012, that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will support 321 projects in all 50 states, plus American Samoa and Guam, that help to prevent the introduction or spread

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of plant pests and diseases threatening U.S. agriculture and the environment. The funding, totaling \$50 million, is provided by Section 10201 of the 2008 Farm Bill.

“We are committed to partnering with our stakeholders to achieve our mutual goals of identifying and mitigating threats to American agriculture, enhancing our emergency response capabilities, and increasing public awareness of the danger of invasive pests and diseases,” said Vilsack.

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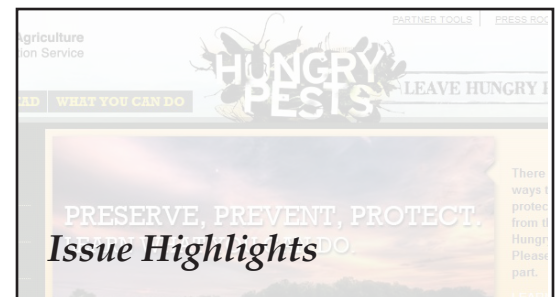
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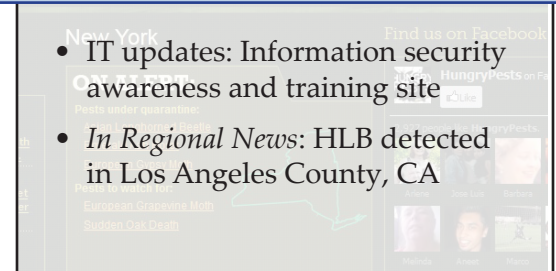
Inspection Service (APHIS) made a concerted effort to solicit project suggestions from states and U.S. territories, universities, federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private companies and tribal organizations. Examples of specific projects include among others the monitoring of high-risk international and domestic pathways for invasive species, applied research to combat citrus pests, and targeted invasive species public outreach.

The FY 2012 funding plan, list of selected projects, and general feedback are posted at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/section10201>.

APHIS engaged stakeholders, such as the National Plant Board, Specialty



New HungryPests.com website



Crops Farm Bill Alliance and USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service and U.S. Forest Service, in designing the evaluation criteria for the suggestions. More than half of the suggestion reviewers came from outside of APHIS.

Suggestions were evaluated on their alignment with Section 10201 goals, the expected impact of the project, and the technical approach. In addition, the reviewers considered how the suggestions would complement ongoing

USDA programs and other Section 10201 projects.

Funded projects were organized around six Section 10201 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 and technology; safeguarding nursery production; enhancing mitigation capabilities; and conducting outreach and education about these issues. 🌿

USDA Urges Americans to Prevent Invasive Pests

APHIS Newsroom

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced on April 2, 2012, that the month of

April will be dedicated to sharing information about the threat that invasive plant pests, diseases and harmful weeds pose to America's fruits, vegetables, trees, and other plants—and how the public can help prevent their spread.

USDA and U.S. Department of Homeland Security's

Customs and Border Protection—working closely with state agriculture departments and industry—are dedicated to preventing the introduction and spread of invasive pests. The goal is to safeguard agriculture and natural resources from the entry, establishment

The screenshot shows the 'HungryPests' website. At the top, it says 'USDA United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service'. The main navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'THE THREAT', 'THE SPREAD', and 'WHAT YOU CAN DO'. A large banner features a field of crops with the text 'INVASIVE PESTS THREATEN SO MUCH THAT WE VALUE.' To the right of the banner, it says 'Invasive insects, other pests and diseases threaten to devour our crops and trees. It's up to each of us to help stop them. LEARN MORE >'. Below the banner, there are 'Quick Links' for 'U.S. Pest Tracker', 'Frequently Asked Questions', 'Press Room', and 'Public Service Announcement'. A 'Connect' section shows social media icons. The 'KEEP UP WITH THE THREAT' section has two news items from 04/10/12. The 'ON ALERT: New York' section lists pests under quarantine (Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, European Gypsy Moth) and pests to watch for (European Grapevine Moth, Sudden Oak Death). The 'Find us on Facebook' section shows the 'HungryPests on Facebook' page with 7,840 likes and a list of users.

www.HungryPests.com is available in English and Spanish and is optimized for mobile devices. Visitors can access the interactive Pest Tracker to see what pests are threatening in a selected state, and learn how to report suspected invasive pests.

and spread of animal and plant pests and noxious weeds.

But federal and state agencies can't do it alone. It requires everyone's help to stop the unintended introduction and spread of invasive pests. The number-one action someone can take is to leave hungry pests behind. USDA urges the public to visit www.HungryPests.com to learn more about invasive pests and what they can do to protect American agricultural resources by preventing the spread of these threats.

"The USDA and its partners are fighting invasive pests on three fronts: abroad, at the border, and across the homeland. We're also developing new tools, improving our systems, and working hard to educate the public on how they can join the fight and help stop the spread of invasive pests," said Rebecca A. Blue, Deputy Under Secretary for USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Read the [full news release](#).

Information on the site is arranged by threat or where the pests are located. One interactive feature of the HungryPests site is the ability to see where the pests have been detected around the country or within specific states. Click on a pest to see where it has been found or where it is a threat.

www.hungrypests.com

IT Security Updates: NPDN Information Security Awareness and Training Site

Mike Hill and Eileen Luke, CERIS, Purdue University

The NPDN Information Security Awareness and Training Site has moved to the NPDN National Portal and is now available at <http://npdn.org/infosec>. This site was initially described in the December 2007 and November 2008 NPDN newsletters. It provides information on security related topics including operational and system security. Popular topics include descriptions on creating strong passwords and how to avoid social engineering attacks.

Many of the topics also include videos that can be streamed online and describe the topics in further detail. A great place to get started is by viewing the Introduction video that is available at http://npdn.org/infosec_intro (See Figure 1).

If you have difficulty using the site or need an information security question answered, please send an email to infosec@npdn.org for assistance. 🌿

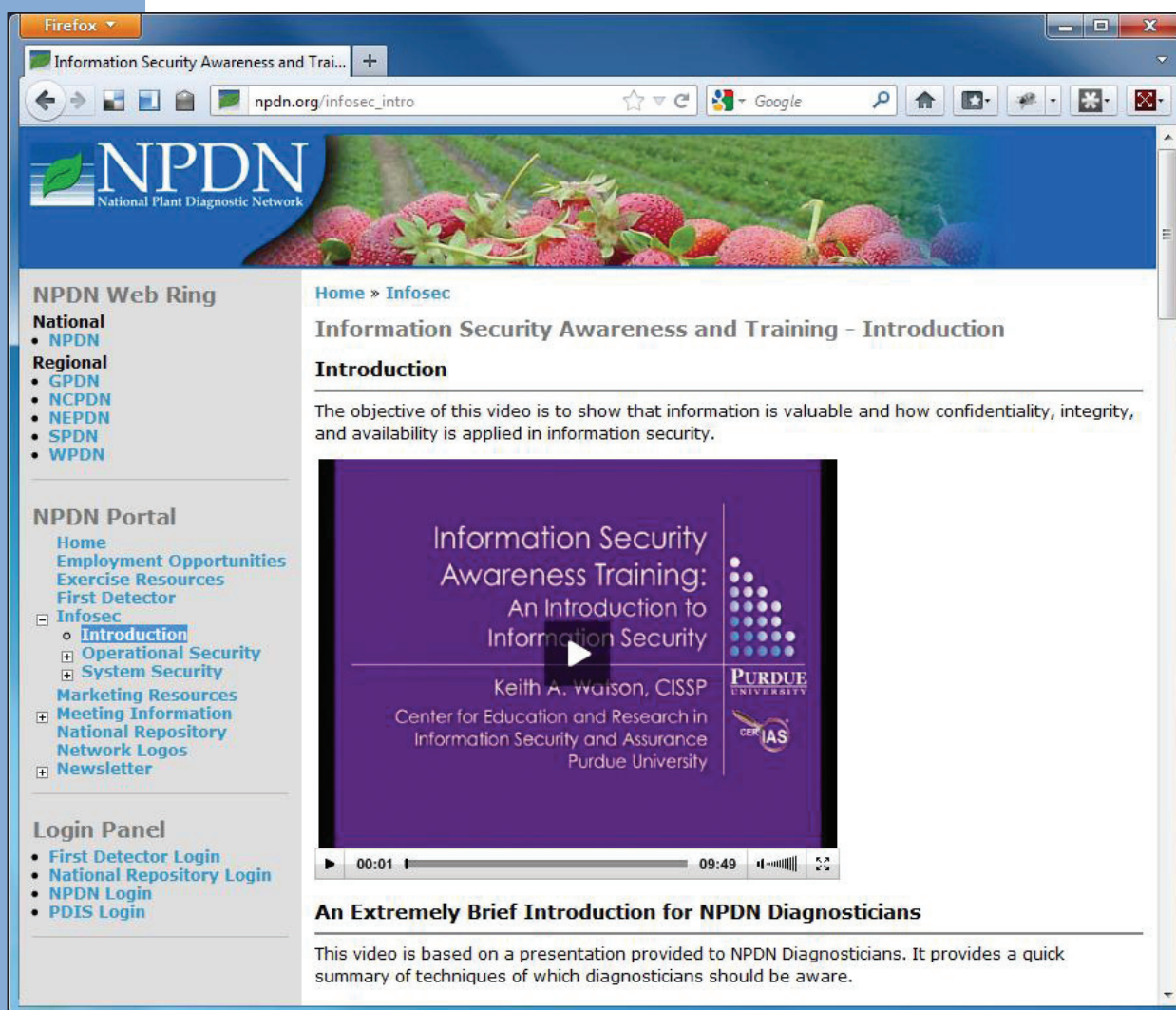


Figure 1: NPDN Information Security Awareness and Training Site Introduction Page

Visit the NPDN homepage at www.npdn.org for more information on specific Program Area Committees.
Login and password required

DIAGNOSTICS COMMITTEE

Diagnostics Committee

Anne Vitoreli, Committee Chair, University of Florida, Department of Plant Pathology

The Diagnostics Committee held conference calls on April 12 and May 10, 2012, and the following agenda items were discussed:

- SOP updates
- Farm Bill
- Bugwood Images
- Impact survey
- Proficiency panels

- Diagnostic training
 - Beltsville training
 - General diagnostic training
- Star-D

Please refer to the Diagnostics Committee website, www.npdn.org/diagnostics, for complete minutes of this meeting. The next conference call will be held on June 14, 2012.

EXERCISE COMMITTEE

Exercise Committee

Sharon Dobesh, Program Area Manager/Committee Chair, Kansas State University, Department of Plant Pathology

The Exercise Committee conducted a conference call on May 15, 2012, and the following agenda items were discussed:

- USDA-APHIS-PPQ updates
- Re-approved SOP

- ETKnet update-Farm Bill suggestion
- NPDN regional updates
- Related program updates (SPN)

The next conference call is scheduled for July 10, 2012.

NATIONAL DATABASE

National Database Committee

Nancy Gregory, Committee Chair, University of Delaware, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

Following the last newsletter the Database Committee held a conference call on May 9, 2012. We have welcomed a couple of new members to the committee; Barbara Shew and Darryl Hensley. Topics included:

- Change submissions

- Pest grouping
- The generic other list
- Insect pest lists

Please refer to www.npdn.org/national_database for complete minutes (login and password is required). The next call is scheduled for June 13, 2012.

TRAINING EDUCATION

Training and Education Committee

Dick Hoenisch, Committee Chair, University of California at Davis, Department of Plant Pathology

The Training and Education Committee conducted a conference call on April 23, 2012, and the following agenda items were discussed:

- Information for the Annual Reports
- Committee Annual Reports

- Module revision project
- Training updates

There was no meeting scheduled for May. The next meeting will be scheduled in June 2012.

Regional News



WPDN

Western Plant Diagnostic Network

Huanglongbing (HLB) Bacterial Disease Found in Los Angeles County CA

Dick Hoenisch, Department of Plant Pathology, University of California at Davis

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed on March 31,

2012, the state's first detection of the citrus disease known as Huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening (see the [CDFA Press Release](#)).

This bacterial disease is thought to have originated in China in the early 1900s, was found in Florida in 2005, and in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas in early 2012. The disease was detected in an Asian citrus psyllid sample and plant material taken from a lemon/pummelo tree in a residential neighborhood in the Hacienda Heights area of Los Angeles County. HLB is a bacterial disease that attacks the vascular system of plants. It does not pose a threat to humans or animals. The Asian citrus psyllid can spread the bacteria as the pest feeds on citrus trees and other plants. Once a tree is infected, there is no cure; it typically declines and dies within a few years. Residents of quarantine areas are urged not to remove or share citrus fruit, trees, clippings/grrafts or related plant material. Citrus fruit may be harvested and consumed on-site.

This article was featured in the *WPDN First Detector News*, vol. 5, no. 1. [Click here](#) to read the full article. 🍃



Top, lopsided grapefruit confirmed to have HLB, photo courtesy of Florida Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services. *Bottom*, adult and nymphs of ACP, photo courtesy of M. E. Rogers.

Upcoming Events

National Events

July 23–26, 2012
National Plant Board 2012
Annual Meeting
Mystic, CT

August 4–8, 2012
[2012 APS Annual Meeting](#)
Providence, RI

November 11–14, 2012
[Entomology 2012, ESA 60th Annual Meeting](#)
Knoxville, TN

Rachel McCarthy, Editor
NEPDN
Cornell University



NPDN
National Plant Diagnostic Network



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture