Citrus Clean Plant Network (C-CPN) Meeting

Lake Alfred, FL

July 1, 2009 (Field Trip – July 2, 2009)

Draft by Erich Rudyj
NCPN Coordinator
July 2009
Citrus – Clean Plant Network (C-CPN) Report:

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Citrus Clean Plant Network (C-CPN)
Needs Assessment and Feasibility Meeting

An Add-On Discussion to the Citrus Crop Germplasm Committee Meeting of June 30, 2009
Lake Alfred, FL - July 1, 2009 – July 2, 2009

AGENDA

June 30, 2009

All Day Event
NCPN Attends ‘Citrus Crop Germplasm Committee Meeting’ at invitation of that committee (FYI Opportunity)

Description of Meeting:
Crop Germplasm Committee meeting on June 30, 2009. The purpose of this committee will be to briefly review activities at the National Clonal Germplasm Repository for Citrus and Dates, Riverside, CA with a main objective of identifying and prioritizing germplasm in Florida that needs to be recovered in the threat of huanglongbing and citrus canker. This germplasm recovery project is being funded by the Florida Production Research Advisory Council.

Location (Address):
University of Florida
Citrus Research and Education center (CREC)
700 Experiment Station Road
Lake Alfred, FL 33850
(863) 956-1151

July 1, 2009

8:30 am – 9:00 am
The National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) - Mission, Vision, Goals, and Update

9:00 am – 10:30 am
General Citrus Program Updates
- Florida
- California
- Texas
- Arizona
- Louisiana

10:30 am – 11:00 am
BREAK

11:00 am – 11:30 am
The Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP) – Relationship to a possible C-CPN

11:30 am – 12:00 noon
Citrus Propagative and Other Diseases of Concern – NCPN Focus >>> A Discussion

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm
LUNCH

3
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  C-CPN – General Discussion of Needs, Feasibility, Program Focus, and Objectives

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm  BREAK

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm  C-CPN – General Discussion (continued) >>> Including Discussion on Stakeholders

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm  Discussion – Next Steps

Location (Address):  University of Florida
Citrus Research and Education center (CREC)
700 Experiment Station Road
Lake Alfred, FL 33850
(863) 956-1151

NOTE >>> After NCPN Working Session, persons interested in July 2 site shall be transported to Gainesville, FL (vans from FL Dept. Agric.) so that we might get an early start on July 2. These same vans will be available on July 2 to transport persons back to Lake Alfred, FL if desired.

July 2, 2009
All Day Event  Travel to Site Visits in morning
  • FDOACS ‘Chiefland’ Screened Foundation Grove – Site Visit
  • DOACS Gainesville Germplasm Program – Site Visit
  • Southern Gardens Nursery – Site Visit (Triton, FL)

Travel / Return Logistics:  Pending

Possible Participants:

Mike Colvin (California – State) - Phone
John DeGraca (Texas – University)
Wayne Dixon (Florida – State >>> Also NCPN Governing Board)
Patrick Gomes (USDA/APHIS – CHRP Coordinator)
Robert Kreuger (USDA/ARS – California)
Richard Lee (USDA/ARS – California)
Erich Rudyj (USDA/APHIS - NCPN Coordinator)
Georgios Vidalakis (California – University)
Gail Wisler (USDA/ARS Nat’l Program Leader >>> Also NCPN Core Working Group)
Glenn Wright (Arizona – University)

Note: Repr. from either LSU or LA Dept. of Agric. might also join the discussions on July 1
Citrus Clean Plant Network (C-CPN)

Meeting Background Information and Minutes

Participants and Contact Information:

Michael Colvin; CDFA >>>>> mcolvin@cdfa.ca.gov
John DaGraca; TAMUK – Citrus Center >>>>> jdagrac@ag.tamu.edu
Richard Dexter; Budwood – DOACS >>>>> dexterr@doacs.fl.us
Wayne Dixon; FDACS – DPI >>>>> dixonw@doacs.state.fl.us
Michael Kesinger; Budwood – DOACS >>>>> kesingm@doacs.state.fl.us
Robert Krueger; USDA – ARS >>>>> Robert.Krueger@ars.usda.gov
Richard Lee; USDA – ARS >>>>> Richard.Lee@ars.usda.gov
Stephen Poe; USDA – APHIS >>>>> Stephen.R.Poe@aphis.usda.gov
Catherine Preston; USDA – APHIS >>>>> Catherine.A.Preston@aphis.usda.gov
Erich Rudyj; USDA-APHIS >>>>> Erich.S.Rudyj@aphis.usda.gov
Georgios Vidalakis; UCR – CCPP >>>>> vidalg@ucr.edu
Lisa Williams; FDACS – DPI – CGIP >>>>> willial1@doacs.state.flo.us
Gail Wisler; USDA – ARS >>>>> Gail.Wisler@ars.usda.gov
Glenn Wright; Univ. of AZ >>>>> gwright@ag.arizona.edu

Persons not at meeting, but considered important potential participants in a Citrus Clean Plant Network:

Monty Nesbit; Alabama
Craig Roussel; Louisiana

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General Update on the National Clean Plant Network:

See Attachment #1 for the NCPN PowerPoint Presentation

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Expectation of the Group for a Citrus – Clean Plant network (C-CPN):

- Strengthen the citrus network nationally
- Would support local establishment (re-establishment) of citrus clonal programs
- Support interchanged of germplasm; e.g. FL to CA and reverse, and among other States
- Facilitates getting citrus stakeholders more involved in national issues
- Would support important budwood programs
- Would help round-out a more comprehensive Citrus health response program (CHRP)
- Facilitate the use of clean stock nationwide

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Brief Updates on Citrus Clean Plant Activities or Interests in Select States or Programs:

ARIZONA

- Arizona’s activities are closely tied to those of California
- Citrus industry is distinct >>> focused on low desert
- Program has a voluntary certification scheme
- Most trees come from California
- Arizona has a crop and tree improvement association interested in citrus health in the State
- Testing and indexing done by Georgios Vidalakis, UC-Riverside (California)
- Arizona maintains a locally important budwood block >>> about 150 varieties (John Lowey?)
- Clean budwood comes to Arizona from UC-Riverside program
- Arizona desires to establish a protected/clean motherblock; an increase block protected by a screenhouse
  - Resource could/would be used as a backup to California
- The nursery industry in the State is interested, but needs some external help/support
- Citrus ‘flow’ in Arizona
  - Budwood (UCR-CCP) > Nurseries in CA > Nurseries in AZ
- Arizona budwood block not tested for everything
- On the CTV issue >>> Mild strains, no good vector, titer goes down in summer
  - Testing to AGDIA
  - Clean up > conducted by UC-Riverside

TEXAS

- Primary citrus crops are grapefruit, Seville oranges, and horticultural citrus trees
  - Varieties include >>> Rio Red, N33 (Navel), Valencia, and Pineapple Sweet
- Texas (TAMU) maintains a foundation blocks
  - Material is received from UC-Riverside
  - Material is used for ‘increase’
- TX could use support for a screenhouse facility
  - $400k proposal made internally to fund a desired screenhouse
  - Increase rows in 4 separate chambers
- Foundation collection away from current facility; not in a citrus area
- State produces about 250,000 buds per year
- Annual testing is done on the increase blocks
- TX maintains a grow-out and grafting program
- TX certification is mandatory
- TX has a budwood advisory committee
- Nursery sourced trees tested for Tristesa virus by TAMU
- TX request for odd satsumas (Mr. Mac) >>> tested for Tristesa virus
  - Shoot-tip grafting of local material >>> this might be done by TX
- IDEA >>> web-tracking of citrus movement >>> citrus is #1 in Google search for clean plant material
CITRUS HEALTH RESPONSE PLAN (CHRP):
- ‘Son-of-Citrus Canker’
- Broad program to look at whole picture of citrus plant health
- CHRP addresses matters via the regulatory process
- CHRP is the national regulatory program for citrus nursery stock
- CHRP = survey, detection, and regulatory programs
- CHRP = both nursery and regulatory action
- CHPR overlap with NCPN >>> no, not really so
  - Citrus canker and CG/HLB is primary focus
  - CHRP is primarily a regulatory program re plant movement
  - Focuses largely on interstate movement of nursery stock and propagative material
- CHRP does not do clean up and associated diagnosis but it’s the ‘movement’ of citrus regulatory component that would be complimented by the NCPN program
- Citrus use a ‘patio plants’ very extensive
  - South Carolina – 11 nurseries for citrus stock for use as homeowner plants
  - Michigan – has nurseries for citrus retail plants
- In time, CHRP might evolve to become a national interstate movement regulatory system covering standards for safe nursery stock to move interstate
  - Nat’l Citrus Nursery Stock Rule >>> set floor on state harmonization process
    - Covers conditions of how material is produced
    - Covers conditions on sources of material (e.g. certified material)
- NCPN would serve to provide source material
- NCPN and CHRP would compliment each other re basics of what it takes to develop a clean plant
- CHRP has less control of citrus ‘residential’ material than it would for material in State budwood programs
- CHRP certification program – Mike Horniak

FLORIDA
- Serves as site for introduction of new material
  - Has a budwood advisory committee
  - Source of material might be the original requestor
  - FL DPI might also take it on selves to find a source for requested material
  - Risk assessments are conducted re how plant material might be treated vs. material being made available from protected collection
- 2 types of therapies; in addition to grow out and broad range indexing
  - Shoot tip grafting
  - Thermal therapies
- Some FL samples sent to UC-Riverside for special testing
- FL flow of material >>> tested > release from quarantine > budwood
  - Examples:
    - 28 foreign/domestic varieties (Australia, Brazil, Israel)
    - 50 Florida selections exposed to disease
- Shot tip grafting >>> 3 full time people.
- Many citrus varieties coming through both FL DPI and UC-Riverside facilities are connected to universities w/interests in clean citrus
- FL has a large citrus program in Winterhaven, FL
- Winterhaven program is mandatory – commercial scions in protected structures
- Nurseries paid for all the nursery screening
- 2 full time staffers in Winterhaven
Note – See Attachment #2 for the FL-DPI Winterhaven PowerPoint Presentation

- In FL > 3 commercial nurseries sell to ‘door-yard’ businesses
- In the 1960’s over 1,000 nurseries in FL
- In 2005 only 75 nurseries exist
- Are 100% of trees tested? No > material is first risk-assessed
- FL has around 5,000 scion trees
- Cost of testing?
  - This cost is considered a State program – comes via box tax from citrus industry
  - CHRP also paying for some work

- FL has large citrus program in Chiefland, FL
  - 41,000 bud eyes in 2008
  - 132,000 bud eyes in 2009
  - At capacity now and for several years
- Chieflands has 3 staffers (+) (-) out of about 16 persons w/FL DPI engaged in such activities

- Movement of citrus material in FL
  - Lisa W (diagnostics/therapy) > Mike K. (budwood) > Growers

- Sources of plant material in system
  - IFAS – 20
  - USDA – 20
  - Growers/Hobbyists – 20

- Cost of clean-up is $500 if found existing in Florida
- Note >>> California may desire to do same for local CA varieties
- FL foreign material – public domain is free – proprietary is $10k
- Boston Farm (FL) is an expansion space - backup to the Chiefland facility. This project has a proposed $2.3m put in for it w/the FL legislature.
- FL produces a budwood cutting report
- NOTE >>> traceback/tracking systems of processed clean plants might be ‘covered’ by NCPN funding
- Material testing at the quarantine facility level is standardized but not so for testing at the nursery level
- The issue of testing by private labs is a point for further discussion among interested parties. FL does not allow this

CALIFORNIA

- CTV testing is mandatory; done by CDFA labs or UCR – viroid tests
- Citrus industry pays for testing
- New CA legislation is proposed that will mandate for a CA Citrus Health Program
- All nursery stock proposed for testing for HLB >>> CA to charge a fee for service
- CA is interested in a citrus passport program
- Lincove facility >>> tristeza virus >>> budwood can’t be cut because virus in area
  - Central CA tristeza program >>> leave mild strains in the field and remove major strains
- Asian citrus psyllid >>> seen as a major challenge pest

- Citrus clonal germplasm repository (CA)
  - Collection of great world citrus diversity
  - Desires new material for entry
  - Desires preservation of existing material
Desires distribution of material
- Commercial citrus material goes to UC-Riverside for clean plant processing.
- Registration of material might be helpful as an option for funding
- On June 11-12 a workshop was held at UC-Riverside. Some of focus was on ACP/HLB the importance to nurseries. Nurseries are the key
  - CDFA is in final scoping w/nurseries before initiating a regulatory process.
  - Workshop had positive reactions
- Regarding APC/HLB
  - Operations shall be moving indoors
  - Many trees to be put under protection
  - 2010 – Mother blocks under screens
  - 2012 – Increase blocks under screens
  - 2015(?) – No tree may be sold unless produced from material under screen
- Psylid is 60 miles to south and 40 miles to east of Riverside
- UC-Riverside desires to upgrade facilities to handle the psylid

Assessment of the 4 citrus resources at Riverside
- USDA germplasm repository (Tracey Kahn)
  - 1,000 (+) citrus in collection
  - Collection is exposed to elements and disease
  - Collection is now being repopulated
  - Plays no part in budwood distribution
  - Important in fruit evaluation
  - Material is occasionally provided to UC-Riverside for clean-up
- Citrus variety collection (Richard Kreuger)
  - UC-Riverside related
  - Mostly outside
- Citrus breeding program (Mike Russ)
  - New varieties
  - Mutational breeding
- UC-Riverside CCPP
  - 100% industry funded
  - Import, test, clean, distribute resources
  - CA, TX, AZ, AL
  - Commercial varieties
  - Supplies budwood to the industry
  - Market focused

Some citrus treatment protocols
- CTV – treated 1x/year
- Psorosis (every 5 years)
- Viroids (5 years voluntary)

HLB and seed transmission? Still an unresolved issue
- CA has 3,500 registered citrus trees in their program
GENERAL COMMENTS

- California – processed proprietary material is (might be???) charged $10k; partial payment is also possible. Industry members would facilitate resources
- Citrus sources >>> Domestic vs. International?
  - There needs to be international sources
  - Citrus Budwood Advisory Committee
    - Material is co-evaluated with pest evaluation
    - Licensing is an issue
- Beltsville, MD (USDA/APHIS) – Inspections only
- Major citrus laboratories and repositories
  - UC-Riverside
  - FL-DPI
  - ARS – Repository (co-located w/UC-Riverside activity)
- Clean-up >>> in past it took 3-5 years; today process down to 2 years
- Clean up >>> can be a frustrating process >>> education is key to this protocol
- Hobbyists >>> most likely to bring in illegal material
  - Note >>> what they’re looking for might already be here!

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C-CPN General Discussions:

- **Decision Point >** It is the general consensus of the group that a Citrus Clean Plant Network (C-CPN) makes sense and is desirable by persons present
- There is no unnecessary overlap between NCPN and CHRP; both programs can compliment each other
- Citrus does not envision a Tier 3 necessity, but desires at this time to pursue only a Tier 2 governance structure
- Importation, diagnostics, therapy, and foundation blocks likely in locations at UC-Riverside and FL-DPI
- Other states invited to participate on Tier 2 governing body; this is especially important as such membership shall allow them to positively influence the decision making process in the direction of a nationally focused network
- G-1 / G-2 ‘regional’ or local foundation plantings are a possibility depending ultimately on the decision of the NCPN national and citrus group for such support
- The NCPN program focus is to bring ‘clean starter material’ folks together under common cause
- Seeds are not part of the NCPN program; it focuses on clonal material
- Focus of NCPN material protection >>> breeding material could be a focus
- Canvassing needed a bit more to ascertain if there are any other programs (US or foreign) with clean up activities
- Much FL and CA material already protected; NCPN could help w/networking, diagnostics, and clean up of added materials and to strengthen existing infrastructure
- Note that ‘advanced lines’ of material already likely protected
- Note that NCPN generally may not fund construction programs

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Interesting discussion from the Germplasm (June 30 talk) for NCPN C-CPN Consideration

- Criteria for protection (partly generated from the June 30 Germplasm Discussion)
  - Currently protected elsewhere?
  - Degree of protection redundancy?
  - Sponsor/Advocate?
  - Patented / Protected (intellectual property)
  - Source of germplasm
  - Value of material to industry or for research
  - Level of risk of loss
  - Current disease status
  - Description of value
  - Uniqueness

Next Steps - ACTION

- Georgios Vidalakis (UC-R) shall spearhead pulling together next series of discussions (teleconferences) regarding establishing C-CPN Tier 2
- NCPN-GB shall provide newly forming C-CPN with examples of ‘Charters’ from Grapes and Fruit Trees CPN as examples of components necessary for good governance to be build around C-CPN
- Members of the July 1 C-CPN advance meeting shall participate as possible and shall determine who else might be considered for membership invitation
- NCPN-GB is prepared to commit small amount of funding to facilitate C-CPN organization costs; such as facilitating meeting and travel logistics. As needed, this might be done as a non-competitive agreement to appropriate source

-Minutes End-

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**Appendix 1**

**Some Reference Materials (Literature) for C-CPN Issues:**

*This is a collection of materials generally obtained by the NCPN Coordinator June 30-July 2, 2009 that might be of particular interest to a newly forming Citrus CPN.*

Asian Citrus Psyllid – University of California ANR – Publication 8205.

CCPP – Citrus Clonal Protection Program – UC Riverside, Department of Plant Pathology.

CGC Committee Meeting ‘Notes’ 01.2008.

Citrus Bacterial Canker Disease and Huanglongbing (Citrus Greening) – University of California ANR – Publication 8218.


Citrus Nursery Stock Registration and Certification – July 5, 2007 Draft – For submission to CDFA for review and comment.

Citrus Variety Collection – University of California, Riverside. Brochure.

CREC – Citrus Research and Education Center Brochure. University of Florida, IFAS.


Florida Citrus Germplasm Introduction Program (CGIP) – Lisa Williams – 2 July 2009.

Florida Citrus Varieties entered in the Florida Budwood Program.

GRIN-Global: International Project to Develop a Global Plant Genebank and Information Management System.


Plant Registration and Certification – Brochure. FDACS – Division of Plant Industries (Revised 2008 DACS-P-00187).

Role of the Crop Germplasm Committee (Updated 22-Oct-2007).

USDA-ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository for Citrus and Dates, Riverside, California – Brochure.


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Appendix 2 – NCPN Update - PowerPoint

National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) Update – Summer 2009

Citrus – Discussions
Lake Alfred, FL >>> July 1-2, 2009

Erich S. Rudy, M.Sc.
Coordinator, National Clean Plant Network
Quarantine Policy, Analysis, and Support Accreditation and Certification Services

Meeting Objectives
Primary Meeting Purpose and Desired Outcomes
- Bring Small Citrus Group Together
  - Clean Plant >>> Citrus Focus
- Discuss NCPN Mission, Vision, Goals
  - Focus on Plant BM 2008 Legislative Directions
- Determine Early Level of Interest and Opportunities
  - Stakeholder interests in NCPN clean plant program
  - NCPN value to citrus initiatives
  - Other programs/initiatives and NCPN role

NCPN Update – Since May 7
Citrus ‘Clean Plant’ Meeting
- Discuss Clean Plant Network: ‘Feasibility’
- Add-On to the Citrus Crop Germplasm Committee Session
- (June 30) July 1 – July 2 >>> Lake Alfred, FL
- Participants to Date:
  - Mike Colvin (CA - State)
  - John DiGioia (TX - Univ.)
  - Wade Gilbreath (IL - State, >>> Also NCPN Governing Board)
  - Richard Kreuzer (USDA/ARS - California)
  - Richard Lee (USDA/ARS - California)
  - Stephen P. Sherwood (USDA APHIS – CHRP Coordinator)
  - Erich Rudy (USDA APHIS – NCPN Coordinator)
  - Georgios Vidalakis (CA – Univ.)
  - Gail Weller (USDA/ARS >>> Also NCPN Core Working Group)
  - Glenn Wright (AZ – Univ.)

Agenda – July 1 (Morning)
- Discuss Agenda – Agree on Process and Outcomes
- NCPN Update – Mission, Vision, Goals
- General Citrus Program Updates from Participants
  - Florida
  - California
  - Texas
  - Arizona
  - Louisiana
  - Other
- The Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP) – Update
- Citrus Diseases – NCPN Focus

Agenda – July 1 (Afternoon)
- NCPN General Discussions
  - Needs
  - Feasibility
  - Program Focus
  - Objectives
  - Opportunities / Drawbacks
  - Resources
- Next Steps?

Agenda – July 2 (All Day)
- Tour Citrus Sites
  - FDACS – Chiefland Screened Foundation Grove
  - FFDNCS – Gainesville Germplasm Program
  - Southern Gerdeni Nursery – Triton, FL
What is the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN)

NCPN Mission
The NCPN provides high quality, annually propagated plant material free of targeted plant pathogens and pests that cause economic loss to protect the environment and ensure the global competitiveness of specialty crop producers.

NCPN Process
- Develop and Support Networks of University, State, and Federal Clean Plant Centers
- Focus on "starter material" of high value, annually propagated specialty crops
- Diagnose and treat certain plant pathogens and pests
- Establish clean material in foundation plantings available to industry for further propagation
- Encourage certified nursery systems to help ensure material remains clean

NCPN – Benchmarks > 2005 - 2009
- NCPN Implementation 2008-2009
  - From Bill 2008
    - State Crop Agency Funding Sources
  - NCPN Governance Forming 2008-2009
    - Governing Model Emerging
    - Core Meeting Structure "1 NCPN National Body
  - NCPN Steering Committee - 2006
    - Working with statemodel NCPP
    - Established in 2005
    - Regional Advisory Council (ARC) National Body
    - NCPN Workshop - May 2007
      - Establishing Rules and Regulations
      - Draft Mission and Vision Statements
      - Draft a long-term Plan

FARM BILL 2008
Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008
Section 10202: National Clean Plant Network

USDA shall establish “National Clean Plant Network” of clean plant centers for pathogen diagnosis and elimination to:
(1) produce clean propagative material and (2) maintain blocks of tested material
Clean plant material made available to:
(1) a State or certification programs; and (2) private nurseries and producers

NCPN General Meeting - 2009
- Purpose
  - NCPN Updates
  - Discuss Business Plan
  - Propose Program Funding Model
- Concluded March 25-26
  - US Natl Arboretum, Washington, DC
- About 60 Stakeholders
  - Representing Grapes, Fruit Trees, Citrus, Hops, Other Specialty Crops
- Highlight > 3 USDA Agency Administrators Sign NCPN MOU

NCPN MOU
- Lays NCPN Foundation at Federal Level
  - Program Goals and Governance
    - 3 Agency Partners >>> APHIS / ARS / CSREES
- Signed at NCPN General Meeting
  - US Natl Arboretum
  - March 25, 2009

Dr. Neryl Blossard, CSREES
Mr. Kenya Stand, APHIS
Dr. Edward Kohlberg, ARS

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NCPN Governance – June 2009

Tier 1
- NCPN Governing Board
- Fruit tree CPM
- Grape CPM

Tier 2 & Tier 3

Specialty Crop Commodities in NCPN

- Current Networks (2009):
  - Fruit Trees (Pome and Stone Fruits)
  - Grapes

- Specialty Crop Groups Must Form Networks
  - Membership: States, Universities, Nurseries, Growers

- Pending Networks (2010/2011):
  - Citrus
  - Berries
  - Others?

Some existing clean plant programs and cooperators for
grapesvines, and fruit and nut trees, and current NCPN Grape
network structure

The principle activities associated with NCPN

- NCPN Centers
- Clean Start
- Nurseries

The ancillary activities associated with NCPN

Nursery Certification Programs

Funding and Challenges
- Funding – Farm Bill Sec. 10201(d)
- Harmonization of standards towards a national program
Farm Bill Update
Section 10202 – NCPN Appropriations, Apportionments, Rescissions

- $5 million each year for 4 years
- FY 2009 – 2012 ($20 million total)
- Funds are ‘No-Year’ – Available Until Expended
- FY 2009 Apportionment to APHIS – April 17, 2009
- FY 2010-2012 Availability?
  - Ongoing Discussions Between Executive and Legislative Branches

NCPN Program Funding Logistics
- Competitive Cooperative Agreements Program
- Actual Funds Availability FY 2009 >>> $4,250,000 (+)
- Request for Proposals ‘Published’ June 4, 2009
- Funding Applications Due July 6, 2009
- Cooperator Access to Funds >>> August/September 2009
- Funding Distribution
  - Operation > 60%
  - Methods > 10%
  - Education > 10%
  - Governance > 10%
  - Audits/Evaluations/Improvements > 10%

Farm Bill Sec. 10201(d) ‘Added Funding’
Nursery Certification Program
- FY 2009 - $257,950 Requested
  - Program #1 - Model Regulation for a State Nursery Certification Program ($96,000)
  - Program #2 - National Nursery Virus Certification Program (NNVCP) Pilot Projects ($100,950)
  - Program #3 - Audit-Based State Nursery Certification Systems – Federal/State Cooperator Training Program ($25,000)
  - Program #4 - Audit-Based State Nursery Certification Systems – Stakesholder Outreach and Education ($466,000)

Farm Bill FY 2010-2012
Breaking News - Recession
- Farm Bill Section 10202 – FY 2010-2012
  - May 11, 2009
  - OMB Requests ‘Rescission’ of Funds > 5%-6%
- Congressional Response – Pending / Unclear
  - Note >>> for ‘Rescission’ to occur Congress must act to undo Farm Bill 2009
- USDA Suggestion to NCPN for Consideration
  - NCPN FY 2009 Funding is ‘No-Year’ Money
  - ‘Stretch’ Funding for 2 Years! 2009 and 2010
  - Limit Activities as Necessary
  - Keep Moving Forward!

NCPN Recent or Upcoming Meetings
- USDA, et al. at State Dept. of Agriculture (NASDA)
  - April 6, 2009
- Eastern Plant Board
  - April 9, 2009 (Raleigh, NC)
- Southern Plant Board
  - April 27, 2009 (Washington, DC)
- national Grape & Vine Initiative (NGVI)
  - April 23, 2009 (Washington, DC)
- NCPN National Governing Body Meeting
  - May 22-23, 2009 (Washington, DC)
- Farm Bill Sec. 10201 Conference Certified Nurseries
  - June 9-10, 2009 (Washington, DC)
- USDA NRT Meeting – NCPN
  - July 2009
- USDA Crop Concepts Meeting
  - June 10-12, 2009 (Albuquerque, NM)
- NCPN Briefer Concepts Meeting
  - August 2009 (D.C.)
- National Plant Board Meeting
  - October 2009 (Salt Lake City, UT)
NCNP Federal Website – On-Line

Launched:
June 17, 2006

Location:
USDA/APHIS website


NCNP Program Responsibilities
and Establishing an NCNP Specialty Crop Group

Specialty Crop Working Group
Establishment
Goals, Objectives, Strategies
and Other Actions

Establish a Group Charter
- Mission
- Definitions
- Governance Structure
- Leadership
- Membership
- Decision-Making Procedures
- Meeting Frequency
- Charter Management

Goals Statements (e.g.)
- Goal 1: Member Capabilities
- Goal 2: Multi-benefits
- Goal 3: Process Harmonization
- Goal 4: Standards and BMPs
- Goal 5: Education/Outreach
- Goal 6: germplasm sharing
- Goal 7: Other...

(1) Enable the interaction among industry, research
and regulatory communities to determine the
resources and structure needed to ensure a viable
and fully functioning clean plant system.
- Development of Management structure
- Develop scope of network and create stakeholders working
groups
- Develop communications and information flow mechanism
- Develop administrative and record keeping infrastructure
(2) The NCPN will provide rapid and safe introduction and release of selections from foreign and domestic sources for commercial development.
   - Establish and expand the network of facilities and expertise
   - Obtain desired accessions
   - Release of tested material in a safe and timely fashion

(3) The NCPN will provide foundation stock to industry within prescribed state and federal certification schemes.
   - Establish and maintain the clean stock
   - Coordinate among appropriate entities
   - Develop procedures for fee schedule for proprietary clones
   - Develop transparent prioritization process for distribution of plant materials

(4) The NCPN will establish diagnostic guidelines and national standards for different crop species for certification and maintenance.
   - Conduct research to develop rapid diagnostic methods
   - Conduct research on epidemiology and etiology of important diseases
   - Optimize and validate accepted protocols to satisfy regulatory needs

(5) The NCPN will investigate, determine and implement the most appropriate methods for effective and rapid elimination of pathogens and insect pests from specialty crops for planting.

(6) The NCPN will develop best management practices that will be used by industry to maintain the pathogen and pest-indexed status of plants for planting.
   - Use of advisory committees in preparation of best management practices (BMP)
   - Effort to incorporate the BMP in state and federal certification programs.

(7) The NCPN will develop a plan to evaluate the performance of the programs.
   - Establish process and timetable for program evaluation
   - Develop Quality Assurance and Quality control standards
(8) NCPN will encourage, develop and engage all possible extension, education and outreach resources that will interact with and train key stakeholders, such as commercial nurseries and growers who propagate their own material to ensure the successful dissemination and use of NCPN products and services.

The Process and the Future
It’s Yours

For more information about NCPN:

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Florida's Citrus Nurseries

- 42 nurseries produced 3.5 million trees in 2008
  - All propagations are reported and tracked.
- The average citrus nursery produces 84 thousand trees

Industry rapidly encloses all their nursery production.
Nursery stock is inspected every 30 days.

- Citrus nurseries use over 5,000 scion trees to produce 48% of their propagating material.
- Nurseries utilize increase blocks for 50% of their budwood.

Florida Budwood Program Facilities
- Winter Haven Office Headquarters & Testing Laboratory
- Chiefland Foundation Greenhouses
- Pathogen Testing Greenhouses

Commercial Scion Planting in Protected Structure Pathogen Tested

Florida Citrus Budwood Registration Bureau
Winter Haven
282 Varieties - 321 Clones

132,000 Budeyes cut this Fiscal Year
Fruit Tree Clean Plant Network Charter
[A component of the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN)]

THE MISSION of the Fruit Tree Clean Plant Network (FTCPN) is to provide high quality asexually propagated temperate climate fruit and nut trees free of targeted plant pathogens and pests that cause economic loss, to protect the environment and ensure the global competitiveness of specialty crop producers.

This mission will be achieved through the following goals (see Appendix A):
1. The FTCPN will provide rapid and safe introduction and release of selections from foreign and domestic sources.
2. The FTCPN will establish and maintain foundation mother blocks (G1) to provide clean planting stock to industry within prescribed state and federal certification schemes.
3. The FTCPN will establish and coordinate working relationships with and among appropriate entities that certify plants for planting.
4. The FTCPN will develop and promote best management practices that will be used by industry to maintain pathogen- and pest-indexed status of plants for planting.
5. FTCPN will encourage, develop and engage all possible extension, education and outreach resources that will interact with and train key stakeholders, such as commercial nurseries and growers, to ensure the successful dissemination and use of FTCPN products and services.
6. Provide a forum to discuss enhancing the systems approach to distribution of nursery stock and the safe and efficient exchange and introduction of new varieties and rootstocks.

Charter for the Fruit Tree Clean Plant Network:

1) The name of this organization shall be the “Fruit Tree Clean Plant Network” (FTCPN).
2) Definitions:
   a) temperate climate fruit and nut trees shall refer to of the genera *Malus, Prunus, Pyrus* and *Cydonia* regardless of their use for food production or as ornamental plants.
   b) viruses shall refer to viruses, graft-transmissible pathogens such as fastidious bacteria of the genus *Xylella* and phytoplasma, and other graft-transmissible agents that have not been identified.
   c) The National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) is the network of centers established in the “The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008” under the Secretary of Agriculture (USDA).
3) The FTCPN operates under the umbrella of the NCPN.
4) The FTCPN is a commodity-based group to provide input to the NCPN in matters relating to the mission of this organization.
   a) The scope of the FTCPN mission is limited to temperate climate fruit and nut trees.
   b) Clean stock programs for detection and elimination of viruses from sources of temperate climate fruit and nut trees are central to the mission of FTCPN activities (see Appendix B).
5) The FTCPN shall have a governing committee (referred to within the NCPN network as the Tier 2 commodity committee) that shall consist of:
   a) the following voting members:
      i) four industry members (representing commercial fruit production and commercial nursery production)
      ii) three regulatory members (state employees)
   Note: The selection of the industry and regulatory members shall, in total, be selected to provide representation of diverse production areas.
iii) three university representatives (two research members and one from extension)
b) the following non-voting members:
   i) NCPN National Coordinator or any other representative appointed by NCPN tier-1
governing body
   ii) one National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) representative
   iii) an APHIS (PPQ) observer appointed by USDA-APHIS
   iv) a representative of the American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA)
v) subject matter experts invited to participate *ad hoc* by the Tier 2 voting members
c) The voting members shall be proposed by a selection committee (composed of one each of
   the university, industry and regulatory members of the Tier 2 commodity committee) at a
general meeting of the FTCPN and ratified by a poll of individuals that have participated in at
least one of the previous two general FTCPN meetings.
i) Criteria for voting members of the commodity body:
   (1) Voting members must belong in good standing to the major constituent group that
they represent (that is, industry, regulatory research or extension bodies)
   (2) Voting members must represent their constituent group regardless of local or personal
affiliations
d) The voting members shall select a chair and vice-chair from within the ranks of the voting
members.
   i) The terms of the chair and vice-chair are two years.
   ii) There is no limit to the number of times that a committee member may serve as chair
and/or vice-chair.
   iii) The chair and vice-chair are allowed to vote on issues before the committee.
e) The term of the voting members shall be four years (with the exception of the committee
established in August 2008. The first term of one-half of the voting 2008 members will be two
years in order to stagger the selection of new committee members).
   i) There is no limit to the number of times that a committee member may serve.
   ii) If two consecutive meetings have not been attended by the voting member, the chair will
consult with the individual about their intent to continue participating and potentially
recommend replacement.
f) The quorum must represent a simple majority of voting members with one representative at
least of industry, regulatory and university.
g) Resolutions will pass by a simple majority vote of participating voting members.

6) Role of the FTCPN commodity committee (NCPN Tier 2 commodity committee):
   a) Voting members of the FTCPN will nominate individuals as observers to represent the FTCPN
on the NCPN Tier 1 governing body.
   b) Provide leadership and direction for the FTCPN.
   c) Provide advice on policy to the NCPN.
   d) Establish priorities for funding programs:
      i) The FTCPN commodity committee will request and receive budget proposals from centers
and individuals to support the service, research and extension mandate of the FTCPN.
      ii) The FTCPN commodity committee will review the proposals for funding, consolidate
and forward the FTCPN budget proposal to NCPN Tier 1 governing body for consideration.
e) Deliverable outcomes will be identified and reviewed on a regular basis.
   f) Working groups will be established to formulate operating procedures to meet goals.

7) This charter and supporting documents will be available for public review.

8) The charter can be reviewed by the commodity committee at any time and changed. If
consensus is unachievable, changes to the charter will require support of a super majority.

9) Headquarters of the FTCPN will be located at Washington State University in Prosser, WA with
administrative support.
10) The FTCPN commodity committee will convene meetings at least two times a year.
11) FTCPN will hold an annual general meeting to inform and receive input from stake holders.
12) The FTCPN will evaluate the performance of the programs on an annual basis. The FTCPN commodity committee, with input from the entire fruit tree network, will establish the process and timetable for program evaluation.
Appendix A:

Actions to achieve Fruit Tree Clean Plant Network (FTCPN) goals:

Goal 1: The FTCPN will provide rapid and safe introduction and release of selections from foreign and domestic sources for domestic and international utilization.
   a) The FTCPN will establish, maintain and enhance a network of facilities and expertise for testing and providing therapy for clones of temperate fruit and nut trees based on climatic suitability, current infrastructure and expertise, regional needs and disease and insect pest safety standards.
      (1) Conduct a review of existing facilities to assess strengths and weaknesses.
      (2) Review state and federal regulations regarding facilities operations to determine where modernization is needed.
      (3) Develop, validate, and implement more rapid and improved testing and therapy protocols.
   b) The FTCPN will use reliable, proven available methods to release pathogen and insect pest tested planting material in a safe and timely fashion.
      (1) The FTCPN will develop risk assessment and risk management protocols;
      (2) The FTCPN will agree on diagnostic protocols and diseases and insects being screened consistent with international plant exchange requirements and state certification standards
      (3) The FTCPN will develop a sharing system for positive controls.
      (4) The FTCPN will develop an audit process.
      (5) The FTCPN will use reasonable methods to obtain desired accessions from reliable sources both within and outside the network.

Goal 2: The FTCPN will provide foundation stock to industry within prescribed state and federal certification schemes.
   a) The FTCPN will establish collections of cultivars that are tested and found to be free of targeted pathogens and insects in accordance with FTCPN standards.
      (1) The FTCPN will develop a process for prioritizing what will be in a collection.
      (2) The FTCPN will develop a procedure for including related species in the network.
      (3) FTCPN facilities will maintain collections in accordance with standards published by FTCPN.
         (a) Standards will include site selection, site preparation, isolation distances, pest monitoring protocols, inspection and testing regimes, among other factors.
         (b) Standards will meet or exceed standards of any certification requirement needed for practical distribution of collection material.
         (c) Wherever possible, the FTCPN will strive to produce propagation material free of all detectable pathogens.
   b) The FTCPN will develop procedures and fee schedules specific to proprietary clones.
   c) The FTCPN will develop a transparent prioritization process for orderly distribution of plant material when demand is greater than availability.
   d) The FTCPN will establish diagnostic guidelines and national standards for certification and maintenance.
      (1) The FTCPN will aggressively promote research to develop rapid, accurate testing techniques to meet its needs and those of regulators and the industry.
      (2) The FTCPN will facilitate optimization and validation of pathogen and pest detection methods according to accepted protocols to satisfy regulatory needs.
(3) The FTCPN will coordinate development, optimization and validation efforts with other entities such as the National Plant Diagnostic Network, academic institutions, USDA-APHIS, USDA-ARS and state agencies and foreign plant protection agencies and scientists.

(4) The FTCPN will encourage and participate in etiological research of significant diseases for which a causal organism is unknown.

(5) The FTCPN will encourage and participate in research on the epidemiology and economic impact of significant diseases.

e) The FTCPN will investigate, determine and implement the most appropriate methods for effective and rapid elimination of pathogens and insect pests from specialty crops for planting.

   (1) The FTCPN will investigate methods for rapidly increasing candidate plants obtained through a therapeutic process.

   (2) The FTCPN will validate and adapt new therapeutic techniques for each specialty crop.

Goal 3: The FTCPN will establish and coordinate working relationships with and among appropriate entities that certify plants for planting.

   a. The FTCPN will assist in discussions to coordinate and harmonize estate certification programs to develop a national certification minimum standard that would qualify for export to foreign markets (predominantly Canada and Mexico at this time).

   b. Engage entities that can facilitate communications, such as NPB and NASDA, to identify stakeholders to develop a communication plan.

   c. Develop an inventory of existing capabilities, roles and authorities.

   d. Clarify and catalogue existing certification schemes, making harmonization a priority.

Goal 4: The FTCPN will develop best management practices that will be used by industry to maintain pathogen- and pest-indexed status of plants for planting.

   a) The FTCPN will use its specialty crop working groups in preparation of best management practices for the maintenance of foundation grade collections and for nursery plantings and production operations.

   b) The FTCPN will assist in the execution of best management practices where expertise by FTCPN is required.

   c) The best management practices may be adopted by state/federal regulatory agencies for their own certification programs.

   d) The efficacy of recommended best management practices will be demonstrated through peer-reviewed or validated research where possible.

Goal 5: FTCPN will encourage, develop and engage all possible extension, education and outreach resources that will interact with and train key stakeholders, such as commercial nurseries and fruit growers who propagate their own material, to ensure the successful dissemination and use of FTCPN products and services.

Goal 6: Provide a forum to discuss enhancing the systems approach to distribution of nursery stock and the safe and efficient exchange of new varieties and rootstocks.

   a) FTCPN will seek to develop partnerships with land-grant and other university based extension and outreach services to interact with commercial nurseries, industry associations, and producers.

   b) FTCPN will develop strategies and resources to ensure the successful and impartial distribution and use of its services and products.

   c) Extension and outreach resources will provide a communication link with FTCPN services and products in the field.

   d) FTCPN will develop strategies and resources to ensure that educational materials about its services and products are included in college and university curricula. The FTCPN will establish public and member-only websites.

   e) Provide links to existing clean plant programs.
f) Develop and maintain registries for plant material in the program.

g) The FTCPN will develop state-of-the-art administrative and record keeping assets, methods and service that will ensure the security, continuity and accuracy of all its activities, products and services.

h) Develop a secure internet sharing system.
Appendix B:

Context Statement for the Fruit Tree Clean Plant Network:
The acquisition and distribution of virus-tested plants throughout the U.S. and abroad is achieved through an ad hoc collection of facilities. There are four primary centers currently active in the U.S. directed to the production of virus-tested material that feeds the nursery certification programs throughout the U.S. These programs have been successful, but functionality will be greatly enhanced by the creation of the FTCPN. Ability to achieve the program mission will be strengthened by unifying these constituents into a network that facilitates communication between centers and state programs and promotes value of these activities to the industry. The FTCPN will also coordinate activities to reduce unnecessary duplication and produce a standardized product that will expedite interstate and international movement of propagation material. In total, the FTCPN will help ensure that requirements of the U.S. fruit tree and nut industries to acquire, plant and produce new varieties of improved phytosanitary status are met in the U.S.

Currently, there are two primary acquisition sites for the importation of material from foreign sources. Small quantities of propagation material can be imported through the United State Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspections Service Plant Germplasm Quarantine Program (USDA-APHIS-PGQP) located in Beltsville, MD. Historically, this program released small numbers of accessions after testing, and the ability to eliminate pathogens, if detected, was very limited. To meet the increasing demands of the fruit tree and nut industry, in 1988, USDA-APHIS granted the National Research Support Project Number–5 (NRSP-005) director a departmental permit to accept pome and stone fruit tree budwood from foreign sources, to render it free of known viruses, and to release virus-tested budwood to cooperators in the country. Begun in 1955, this fruit tree program, currently location at Washington State University in Prosser, has provided over 1.2 million buds of over a thousand virus-tested varieties to nurseries and scientists for tree production and subsequent use in the nation’s orchards. Thus, the program provides most of the foundation grade material for the startup of state monitored certification programs in the country (and for many around the world). NRSP-005 is the only functioning facility in the U.S., and one of only a few in the world, that annually provides heat therapy to eliminate virus from large numbers of infected stone and pome fruit cultivars. Without such therapy, infected clones would never become available for planting in a virus-free condition. Until 1988, this program only accepted material from domestic sources. The industry considers the ability to also acquire foreign accessions pivotal in its efforts to stay competitive in the global market. Furthermore, trees maintained in NRSP-005 screenhouses are virus-tested and perceived by foreign quarantine organizations as a hygienic and preferred source for importation. Thus, owners of varieties also now view NRSP-005 as a center for distributing their selections to cooperators both in the U.S. and around the world. NRSP-005 therefore plays a central role in the safe and efficient international distribution of new fruit tree varieties.

Material emanating from domestic sources such as public and private breeding programs can be tested at NRSP-005 at Washington State University, Prosser and at Foundation Plant Services (FPS) in University of California, Davis. Foundation Plant Services (FPS) is a self-supporting service department in the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Davis, which produces, tests, maintains and distributes premium disease-tested propagating material for use by nurseries and growers in California, the U.S. and the world. The FPS fruit and nut tree clean plant program began in the 1950s with the distribution of virus-tested cherry cuttings. FPS works with researchers and members of the fruit and nut tree industry in developing and introducing new materials originating from breeding programs, domestic and foreign public collections, and private plantings. The Foundation Orchard includes cultivars of almond, apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach, plum and commonly-used rootstocks, and relies on the NRSP5 program for importation and
virus therapy. FPS has played a national and international role in the production and distribution of healthy planting stock of both new and improved crop varieties. As the State-designated program that houses and maintains the Foundation collections for the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s (CDFA) Registration and Certification programs for deciduous fruit and nut trees, FPS stocks qualify and serve as principal source material for commercial increase, primarily for California industries.

The southeastern U.S. is home to the second and third largest peach production industries in the U.S. (South Carolina and Georgia, respectively). Trees used in this industry are produced by three nurseries located in middle Tennessee. These nurseries are the source of many of the fruit trees sold to homeowners through large retail outlet chains and mail order services. In addition, these three nurseries supply trees to states from Virginia down the east coast to Florida and along the gulf coast to Texas. In the past they have contract budded material for nurseries from Pennsylvania. Accurate figures for production are not available, but 2 to 3 million trees are produced annually. For reasons primarily based on climate, and a different business model, these programs operated largely independent of the programs in the western U.S. After several failed attempts to create and sustain certification programs in the southeast to provide virus-tested trees, enthusiasm for a certification program was reignited by the discovery of Plum pox virus in Pennsylvania in 1999. Growers in South Carolina and Georgia and the three nurseries in Tennessee combined interests to establish a less formally structured certification program. The program is operated out of Clemson University in South Carolina where expertise for virus testing resides. Orchards of commercially significant peach cultivars were identified by the growers and nurseries. Each tree was tested for the presence of Plum pox virus, Prunus necrotic ringspot virus and Prune dwarf virus. Infected trees within the block are identified and removed. The virus indexing is repeated annually and in 2006, 1,933 trees of 42 peach varieties were tested. In addition to testing these blocks, the program tested the block of trees used to produce seed of Guardian™ rootstock, currently the most popular rootstock in the Southeast for commercial planting.

These programs have evolved to fill particular niches. There is very little duplication, but there is also little communication between programs. As the tree fruit industry continues to evolve, these programs need to be able to respond. The FTCPN will create a bridge between these four programs to facilitate the efficient and coordinated movement of material through the programs. Each program will contribute its strengths and unique properties to provide a coherent delivery system to the nursery and commercial producers. Enhanced communication will prevent unnecessary duplication, and formal recognition of sites will provide additional security to the system by providing locations for maintaining foundation level varieties that have unique environmental requirements.

In most states, the distribution of the small amount of material generated by foundation level programs to the grower is accomplished through nurseries operating in compliance with certification programs operated by state departments of agriculture, and funded by the industry in various mechanisms. These programs operate in a number of states but the standards for certification vary. This disparity contributed in a significant manner to the difficulty in establishing a functional certification program in the southeast where the separation of the nurseries (located in Tennessee) and the production industries (located in South Carolina, Georgia and other states) made legislation for fruit tree certification in the region problematic. The wishes of growers in the production industry states were not enforceable in the nursery production state other than on a voluntary basis. The FTCPN will seek to harmonize standards between state certification programs to facilitate the interstate movement of virus-tested propagation material.

Research is required to accelerate the passage of propagation material though quarantine (virus testing and elimination), and to improve the efficiency of the larger scale testing required by state certification programs. Research is currently performed at the four mentioned sites and must be
supported. Additional research facilities can also be brought to bear on needs directly related to activities of the FTCPN. This is aided by the coordinated effort of the four above mentioned sites and by engaging other facilities in appropriate research activities set forth by the FTCPN.

The fruit tree and nut industries of the U.S. have enjoyed many years of relative shelter from serious virus disease because of the effort of programs across the U.S. Much of this activity has occurred unnoticed by the end users of the trees, that is, the grower. An aggressive outreach effort is required to promote the continued use of virus-tested material and of the benefits of the standards established by the FTCPN. There are several disease causing agents for which it is difficult to certify that they are absent from propagation material, but risk can be minimized through the use of best management practices at the nursery. Extension is required to develop these practices, where necessary, and to promote their use. Application of best management practices is seen as one prerequisite for use of the FTCPN standard.
Sec. 1  General

(a) The name of this organization shall be the “National Grape Clean Plant Network” (NGCPN). The NGCPN is a commodity-based group created to provide expertise, advice and recommendations to the Governing Body of the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) relative to clean plant issues and funding priorities for grapevines.

(b) This charter establishes the NGCPN under the authority of Title X, section 10202, of House Resolution 6124, known as the Food, Conservation & Energy Act of 2008.

QUESTION to CWG: does this suffice as a description of the [legal] relationship between the commodity network and the Tier 1 Governing Body?

Sec. 2  Statement of Purpose

In May 2008, H.R. 6124 Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, otherwise known as the Farm Bill of 2008, became law. The National Clean Plant Network was included in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) Title X, section 10202. That legislation authorized funding of $20 million over four years beginning in FY 2009 to establish the NCPN for specialty crops to provide reliable sources of propagative material that are free of propagative-borne pathogens. The initiative supports a network of clean plant centers in the United States. Those centers would conduct diagnostic and pathogen elimination services and maintain mother/foundation blocks (G1) to provide tested, virus-free plant materials to nurseries, growers and state certification programs. This effort coincides with a desire by industry and federal and state regulatory agencies to create a system of voluntary compliance to insure that pests and diseases that can originate in, and be distributed by, the nursery industry are detected and eliminated before they become widespread.

Industry members, state regulatory and academic interests involved with the grape commodity within the United States have organized into the National Grape Clean Plant Network for purposes of implementing the provisions of this initiative. The mission of the NGCPN is to provide high quality asexually propagated grapevine plant material free of targeted pathogens and pests that cause economic loss, to protect the environment and ensure the global competitiveness of United States grape plant material. The NGCPN will support clean plant centers and provide education and outreach services in support of its mission.

Sec. 3  NGCPN Governance Structure

(a) The National Grape Clean Plant Network has a two-tiered governance structure. The national level of the grape clean plant network is represented by the National Grape Clean Plant Network (Tier 2) Board. There are also two regional boards, designated Tier 3, that separately represent the Eastern and Western grape interests within the United States and report to the Tier 2 Board.

(b) The headquarters of the National Grape Clean Plant Network is at Foundation Plant Services, University of California, at Davis, California.

Sec. 4  Tier 2 Board Organization

(a) The NGCPN Tier 2 Board is composed of eight members that are elected from the Tier 3 regional Boards. The Eastern and Western Grape CPN (Tier 3) Boards shall each select four representatives for the Tier 2 Board. The four representatives shall represent all of the following categories: commercial grape production
("growers"); commercial grape nursery production ("nurseries"); university scientists in extension or research positions related to grape issues; and state regulatory employees familiar with state certification programs.

(b) The voting members of the Tier 2 Board shall serve two-year terms. Beginning with elections in 2009 or thereafter, elections for the two-year terms shall be staggered so as to avoid all terms becoming due simultaneously. The terms of current Board members may be extended in order to accomplish the staggered terms.

(c) The Tier 2 Board shall invite to its meetings non-voting observers/advisors from the following areas: NCPN Governing Body (Tier 1); APHIS; subject matter experts (SME) for input on technical issues related to clean plant issues for grapevines.

(d) The Tier 2 Board shall elect from within its voting members a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be selected one from the Tier 3 Eastern region and one from the Tier 3 Western region. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve two-year terms. There is no limit to the number of times a Board member may serve as Chair and/or Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall automatically succeed the Chair when the Chair’s term has expired, unless the Chair is re-elected. OR, the Chair shall alternate between the Western and Eastern Tier 3 Networks.

(e) If the Chair and Vice-Chair cannot perform their duties, the remaining voting Board members shall designate a temporary Chair.

Sec.5 Tier 2 Board Meetings

(a) The NGCPN Tier 2 Board shall meet not less than twice per year to set priorities for funding, to confer on pathogen testing standards and to transact such other business that may properly be brought before it.

(b) A quorum shall consist of 5 voting members of the Board.

(c) All decisions of the Board shall be made by a majority vote of the Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair are allowed to vote on issues before the Board. In the event of a tie vote, the observer from the Tier 1 NCPN Governing Body shall be allowed a vote.

NOTE: I chose the Tier 1 representative as the tie breaker since they will be allowed to veto anything they want anyway.

(d) Meetings of the Board shall be open to the public, except for confidential matters related to personnel issues.

(e) Minutes of the meetings shall be posted in a site accessible to the public.

(f) Any voting member of the Board who misses two consecutive meetings shall be removed from his or her position. The Tier 3 Board who elected the removed Board member shall replace him/her with a representative possessing similar qualifications.

Sec.6 Tier 3 (Regional) Board Organization

(a) Each of the regional Tier 3 networks shall elect a voting Board, composed of representatives from industry (growers, nurserymen), academia in the areas of extension and research, and state regulatory agencies familiar with state certification programs.

(b) The Eastern Grape Clean Plant Network (EGCPN) represents grape interests in the Eastern and Central United States, including all the states except Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. The
voting members of the Board of the EGCPN shall consist of at least one representative from the Eastern states and one representative from the Central states for each of the following categories: nursery, grower, extension/research, state regulatory.

(c). The Western Grape Clean Plant Network (WGCPN) represents grape interests in the Western United States, including Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. The voting members of the Board of the WGCPN shall consist of at least one representative from California and one representative of the Pacific Northwest for each of the following categories: nursery, grower, extension; and research. The voting members of the Board shall also include three state regulatory representatives, one each from California, Oregon and Washington.

(d) For the Tier 3 Boards elected in 2009 and after, the voting members of each Tier 3 Board shall be nominated by a selection committee (composed of one each of the university, industry and regulatory members of the respective Tier 3 Board). The nominations shall be presented at a regular meeting of the Tier 3 Board and ratified by a vote of individuals that have participated in at least one of the previous two Tier 3 Board meetings for the regional network holding the election.

NOTE: This provision was modelled after the Fruit Tree Network procedure for their Tier 2 Board. Our issue is how to define the voting constituency for election of Tier 3 representatives? Once the Tier 3 Boards are selected, the decision of who is selected for the Tier 2 Board becomes simpler.

(e) The following criteria must be met for a person to be eligible to be a voting member of the Tier 3 Board:

   (i) a voting member must be a participant in good standing of the major constituent group that he/she represents;

   (ii) a voting member must agree to represent the best interest of his/her constituent group as a whole, regardless of local or personal affiliation.

NOTE: This provision was modelled on the Fruit Tree Network Tier 2 document.

(f) The voting members of the Tier 3 Board shall serve two-year terms. Beginning with elections in 2009 and thereafter, elections for the two-year terms shall be staggered so as to avoid all terms becoming due simultaneously. The terms of current Board members may be extended in order to accomplish the staggered terms.

NOTE: The Fruit Tree Network opted for four-year terms for its Board. I included two years here since that is what we agreed upon for the grape networks at all our meetings.

(g) Each of the regional Tier 3 Networks shall invite to its meetings non-voting observers/advisors from the following areas: NCPN Governing Body (Tier 1), APHIS, the USDA Germplasm Repository system, subject matter experts (SME) for input on technical issues related to clean plant issues for grapevines.

(h) Each Tier 3 Board shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair, who will be voting members of the respective Board. Although the Chair and Vice-Chair need not be selected from among the voting members of the Tier 3 Board, the Chair and Vice-Chair must possess the minimum qualifications for election to the Tier 3 Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be selected one from each sub-region represented on the respective Tier 3 Board (California/Pacific Northwest; Eastern and Central). The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve two-year terms. There is no limit to the number of times a Board member may serve as Chair and/or Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall automatically succeed the Chair when the Chair’s term has expired, unless the Chair is re-elected.

(i) If the Chair and Vice-Chair cannot perform their duties, the remaining voting Board members shall designate a temporary Chair.
Sec. 7 Tier 3 (Regional) Board Meetings

(a) The Tier 3 regional Boards will meet as necessary to address the regional issues of concern and to transact such other business that may properly be brought before it.

(b) A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Tier 3 Board.

(c) All decisions of the Board shall be made by a majority vote of the Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair are allowed to vote on issues before the Board. In the event of a tie vote (e.g., due to absence of or abstention by one or more Board member(s)), the observer for the Tier 1 Governing Body shall be allowed a vote.

NOTE: Unlike with the Tier 2 Board, both of the Tier 3 Boards have an odd number, so there should be no tie unless someone is absent or abstains. I have made provision for the tie due those circumstances.

(d) Meetings of the Board shall be open to the public, except for confidential matters related to personnel issues.

(e) Minutes of the meetings shall be posted in site accessible to the public.

(f) If a voting member misses two consecutive meetings, the Tier 3 Board will consult on the necessity for replacement of that member.

Sec. 8 Amendment of Charter

(a) This charter and any supporting documentation will be available for public review upon request to the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Tier 2 Board or to the Chair or Vice-Chair of either Tier 3 Board.

(b) This charter may be amended at any time by the Board whose activity is affected by the provisions to be revised. Amendment of provisions that affect both the Eastern and Western Tier 3 Networks must be accomplished by approval of both Boards. Amendment of any provision requires a simple majority vote.

Sec. 9 Duration of Charter

(a) This charter shall terminate four years from the date it is filed with [Congress? USDA?], unless sooner terminated. The charter may be renewed at the end of this four-year period.

Revised: March 4, 2009
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