

FOR INFORMATION
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April 9, 2008

SUBJECT: Citrus Greening Summit Findings and Appointment of a National Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid Coordinator

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program is releasing the findings from the December 2007 Citrus Greening Summit held among Federal, State, and industry leaders to improve America's defense against citrus greening and its insect vector, the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP).

Throughout the course of the meeting, five key needs emerged, including the following: (1) strong and decisive national leadership; (2) enhanced and coordinated research; (3) increased funding to support a wide array of activities; (4) improved communication among all sectors; and (5) better coordination between the United States and Mexico to address potential pathways and to harmonize disease and vector-control activities.

APHIS is proposing to develop a national plan that will result in a coordinated and holistic approach for conducting ongoing and future activities to target these pests. To lead the effort, APHIS has selected Dr. Patrick Gomes as the National Citrus Greening/ACP Coordinator. Dr. Gomes will also continue to serve as the National Citrus Health Response Program Coordinator, which he was appointed to in January 2007. As the National Citrus Greening/ACP Coordinator, Dr. Gomes will be responsible for forming a Leadership Steering Committee to assist in the development of the national plan and in the coordination of citrus greening and ACP management and control activities. APHIS will also be working with key Federal, State, tribal, citrus health experts, and industry leaders to create working groups that will gather information and help address the critical issues identified at the summit.

Interested parties may review the full Citrus Greening Summit report at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/citrus_greening/. APHIS is seeking feedback on this document and invites the public to submit their comments to the following e-mail address: CitrusGreeningPlan@aphis.usda.gov. Individuals may also mail comments to the Citrus Health Response Program, APHIS, USDA, 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, North Carolina 27606-5213. Consideration will be given to comments received on or before May 9, 2008.

For more information, you may contact Patrick Gomes, National Citrus Health Response Program Coordinator, at (919) 855-7300.

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Plant Protection and Quarantine