



May 13, 2008

TO: Potential Parties for Cooperative Agreements resulting in Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program Activities

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AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEYS REQUEST FOR WORKPLANS (PROPOSALS)

The national Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program has funds available to agencies or organizations that would like to conduct agricultural pest surveys in Montana. The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) administers these funds in Montana, and is requesting potential workplans for calendar year 2009.

Workplans should be based on the potential for a pest to find its way into our state and its ability to impact our agricultural industries, as well as concerns expressed by our trading partners. There are several pests that we routinely survey for, (as do many states), including Gypsy Moth and Karnal Bunt. This program has also recently funded projects to delimit the distribution of a biocontrol agent of bindweed, and to teach IPM in the schools.

The CAPS program is administered through cooperative agreements with the USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA APHIS PPQ). The program is essential in assuring our trading partners that Montana is free from exotic pests of concern, and provides the resources necessary to identify exotic pests that may be introduced into the state. Pests considered particularly harmful can be found on the National Pest List and on the Western Region Pest List

(<http://pest.ceris.purdue.edu/pestlist.php>)

(http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pest_detection/national.shtml).

This statewide call for workplans is the first step in determining what surveys will be conducted in 2009. If your organization or agency is interested in receiving funds to conduct agricultural pest surveys, please complete a workplan using the attached/enclosed template, and return it to the department no later than June 15, 2008.

Beyond the funds available through MDA, there are occasionally funds that flow directly from USDA APHIS PPQ to other agencies for specific types of projects. We are happy to serve as a conduit for initial contacts with the appropriate personnel.

Thank you for your time. Please consider this an opportunity for communication, and assistance, as well as a chance to tell us what you think about upcoming plant pest problems. I look forward to hearing from you.

If you have questions please contact Patricia M. Denke at the MDA (406)-444-3790 or by e-mail at pdenke@mt.gov.

