

Pest Detection / CAPS Infrastructure Accomplishment Report – FY2020

Year:	2020
State:	Connecticut
Cooperative Agreement Name:	Cooperative
Cooperative Agreement Number:	AP20PPQFO000C003
Project Funding Period:	January 1, 2020 – December 20, 2020
Project Report:	PD / CAPS Infrastructure Report
Project Document Date:	
Cooperators Project Coordinator:	State Survey Coordinator
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Quarterly Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Semi-Annual Accomplishment Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Accomplishment Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Pest Detection / CAPS Infrastructure Accomplishment Report – FY2020

- A. Compare actual accomplishments to objectives established as indicated in the work plan. When the output can be quantified, a computation of cost per unit is required when useful. *
- Activities:
 - *Pest Detection / CAPS Survey Work:*
 - Katherine Dugas prepared 2020 PPA workplans and budgets for a *Phytophthora ramorum* nursery survey and an Orchard commodity survey as funding was approved (March – May).
 - Gerda Magana prepared the 2020 PPA workplan for the Forest Pest Outreach Project as funding was approved (May – June).
 - Katherine Dugas ordered additional survey supplies from IPHIS for the 2020 Orchard commodity survey (March).
 - Gerda Magana submitted PPA 2021 proposals to Metastorm (Forest and Agricultural Pest Outreach and Vegetable Crops Pest Survey proposals).
 - Gerda Magana submitted Survey Summary Form on CAPS website.
 - Gerda Magana signed up for ArcGIS account for PPQ field operations staff for spotted lanternfly program in CT.
 - Gerda Magana submitted *Phytophthora ramorum* and Orchard Commodity Survey 2020 Semi-annual Accomplishment Reports to EzFedGrants.
 - Gerda Magana ordered CAPS 2021 Survey and SLF circle traps and SLF lure supplies on IPHIS.
 - Gerda Magana uploaded CAPS 2020 and Orchard Commodity Survey 2020 trap data and CAPS 2020 SLF visual survey data to NAPIS.
 - Gerda Magana submitted CAPS 2021 preaward documents.
 - At the end of December 2020, Gerda Magana started entering *P. ramorum* data into IPHIS.
 - *Other APHIS or State Survey Work:*
 - Gerda Magana, SSC, entered data into NAPIS after new county detections of Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) were confirmed in CT. The BLD has been previously found in Fairfield County in Connecticut. The three new counties that are positive for Beech Leaf Disease are New Haven, New London, and Middlesex.
 - In April 2020, Dr. Victoria Smith and her CAES staff participated in *Ralstonia* trace-forwards. Eleven businesses in Connecticut received plants. A total of 4100 plants were shipped to CT, all of these and more were destroyed. Response was completed within one week.
 - On August 13, 2020, Gerda Magana entered two New in County records for Beech Leaf Disease, requested by Dr. Robert Marra.
 - *Committee Service:*
 - Gerda Magana, Dr. Victoria Smith, and Dr. Kirby Stafford ran the spring statewide CAPS committee meeting on June 24th. SSC prepared minutes of spring statewide CAPS committee meeting (15 attendees; see appendix). 2021 CAPS guidelines and 2020 CAPS surveys in Connecticut were discussed using APHIS, CAES and state

- committee member input. In preparing this meeting, Gerda reviewed current CAPS AHP and commodity pest lists, GPDD and NAPPFAST to make recommendations to the state CAPS committee for 2021 survey pests.
- Gerda Magana scheduled CT CAPS winter committee meeting for 1-20-21. Also created the meeting Agenda.
 - *Emergency Response Planning:*
 - CAES staff has assisted in Ralstonia trace forward.
 - The SSC had no requests for pest information from the NAPIS database.
 - Gerda Magana worked on spotted lanternfly trace work.
 - In September, SLF population was found in Greenwich, Connecticut, and delimiting grid survey for SLF was started around confirmed or suspected SLF sightings. CAES staff inspected a total of 707 sites for spotted lanternfly and two of these sites were positive for SLF.
 - *Networking:*
 - Gerda Magana contacted Abby Bessinger and Mary Concklin (UConn Cooperative Extension) to introduce herself as the new SSC, to invite them to participate at CAPS Committee Meeting (June 24, 2020), and to ask to give a pest update during the meeting. On another occasion, Gerda Magana contacted Mary Concklin to ask if she knows any under structure tomato growers in Connecticut for the future of ToBRFV virus survey.
 - 16 January 2020, 22nd and 23rd January 2020: Katherine Dugas attended the CNLA and CTPA winter meetings, see full details below in Meetings.
 - 1-6-20 – Katherine Dugas attended the UConn Extension Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Conference.
 - 8-4-20 – Gerda Magana sent 18 emails to survey participants inviting to join virtual Plant Science Day hosted by CAES.
 - 9-10-20 – Gerda Magana reached out and introduced herself over an email to Carl Johnson from UConn. He temporarily replaced Abby Beissinger, Assistant Extension Educator.
 - In September, Dr. Richard Cowles contacted Gerda Magana asking for an article for CT Christmas Tree Grower Association (CCTGA) magazine.
 - 9-23-20 – Dr. Richard Cowles introduced (over email) Gerda Magana to Kathy Kogut, Executive Director of CCTGA.
 - Outreach and Education:
 - Interviews (TV/Radio/Newspaper/Magazines):
 - 5-26-20 – Dr. Victoria Smith was interviewed by the CT Examiner regarding the effects of the ongoing virus pandemic on the CT nursery industry.
 - 7-28-20 – Dr. Victoria Smith was interviewed by television stations NBC30, WFSB, and WTNH regarding the recent shipment of unsolicited seeds from China.

- 7-29-20 – Dr. Victoria Smith was interviewed by Jan Spiegel of the CT Mirror regarding gypsy moth and general forest health conditions.
- 9-22-20 – Dr. Victoria Smith was interviewed by WSHU radio regarding spotted lanternfly.
- 10-16-20 – Dr. Victoria Smith and Dr. Kirby Stafford were interviewed about spotted lanternfly by Chris Arnott of the Hartford Courant.
- 10-26-20 – Dr. Victoria Smith was interviewed about spotted lanternfly by Brendan Crowley of the CT Examiner.
- Outreach materials (Pamphlets/ brochures/ posters/online outreach materials, etc.):
 - Katherine Dugas updated the fact sheets for all CAPS 2020 target pests. These fact sheets were distributed to all survey participant nurseries and landowners via email, and physical copies were made available at the CNLA and CTPA winter meetings.
 - Katherine Dugas updated the CAPS outreach posters to include 2020 survey pests. These posters are on display at all CNLA and CTPA winter and summer meetings.
 - Gerda Magana updated CAPS page on CAES website in November 2020. The updates included fixing dead links, updating Reports Tab, uploading workplans, accomplishment reports, etc.
- Press Releases:
 - 8-4-20 – CAES Press Release, Native Cicada Killer vs. Giant Asian Murder Hornet [CAES Press Release Native Cicada Killer vs. Giant Asian Murder Hornet 8-4-2020 \(ct.gov\)](#)
 - 8-10-20 – CAES Press Release, USDA Asks Residents to Forward Unsolicited Packages of Seeds [CAES Press Release USDA Receipt of Seed from China 8-10-2020 \(ct.gov\)](#)
- Publications:
 - 7-27-20 – CT residents asked to report any unsolicited packages of seeds <https://www.fox61.com/article/news/local/ct-residents-asked-to-report-any-unsolicited-packages-of-seeds/520-7a4622e5-7be9-4d78-a01d-065e1c616d79>
 - 7-28-20 – CT officials tell residents not to plant ‘unsolicited packages’ of seeds <https://www.ctpost.com/news/article/CT-officials-tell-residents-not-to-plant-15441280.php>
 - 7-29-20 – Don’t plant the seeds: Connecticut officials warn residents not to use mysterious seeds sent in unsolicited packages <https://www.courant.com/breaking-news/hc-br-mysterious-seed-packages-20200729-j6p4u5o76ffmbmgxbuwatwewee-story.html>
 - 7-29-20 – State agriculture officials warn residents to not plant seeds received in mail from China <https://connecticut.news12.com/state-agriculture-officials-warn-residents-to-not-plant-seeds-received-in-mail-from-china-42429605>
 - 7-31-20 – Connecticut Residents Asked to Report Receipt of any Unsolicited Packages of Seeds

- <https://news.extension.uconn.edu/2020/07/31/connecticut-residents-asked-to-report-receipt-of-any-unsolicited-packages-of-seeds/>
- 8-1-20 – CT Residents Asked To Report Receipt Of Any Unsolicited Seeds <https://patch.com/connecticut/across-ct/ct-residents-asked-report-receipt-any-unsolicited-seeds>
- 8-4-20 – No, you don't have murder hornets in your yard https://www.wfsb.com/news/no-you-dont-have-murder-hornets-in-your-yard/article_47575576-d66e-11ea-a202-c3cec1cbc4d3.html
- 8-6-20 – New Haven scientists: Large 'cicada killer' wasp is not a 'murder hornet' <https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/New-Haven-scientists-Large-Cicada-Killer-15461386.php>
- 8-6-20 – New Haven scientists: Large 'cicada killer' wasp is not a 'murder hornet' <https://www.ctpost.com/news/article/New-Haven-scientists-Large-Cicada-Killer-15461386.php?src=ctphpcp>
- 8-9-20 – Giant cicada-killer wasps 'unusually active' in Northeastern US <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/us-news/12352796/giant-cicada-killer-wasps-active-northeastern-usa/>
- 8-13-20 – USDA asks residents to forward unsolicited packages of seeds <https://www.courant.com/community/windsor/hc-wn-0820-communitynews-20200813-6ia3sns5snfjbbbxcykh5dqbk4-story.html>
- 8-13-20 – Not the 'Murder Hornet': Cicada Killer Wasps Termed Gentle Giants https://www.primepublishers.com/towntimesnews/news/community_news/not-the-murder-hornet-cicada-killer-wasps-termed-gentle-giants/article_8f36e8b0-dcdc-11ea-bbfa-371d59827a33.html
- Gerda Magana wrote an article "The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program in Connecticut". The article was published in Volume 60, Number 4, Fall 2020 CT Christmas Tree Growers Association magazine called The Real Tree Line.
- Meetings:
 - Conference calls:
 - Katherine Dugas introduced Gerda Magana to the other northeastern SSC's, and a discussion of how COVID-19 has affected 2020 CAPS surveys took place. (May 14th)
 - Gerda Magana participated in northeastern SSC Check-in Meeting calls.
 - Gerda Magana had a conference call with Nichole Carrier and Kate Aitkenhead to discuss 2021 workplans and proposals.
 - Gerda Magana participated in a conference call discussing CT CAPS plans.
 - Throughout the year, Gerda Magana and Dr. Victoria Smith participated in a monthly CT CAPS call with Nichole Carrier, USDA.
 - Conferences:
 - Katherine Dugas presented information about the 2020 CAPS surveys and target pests at the CT Tree Protective Association and the CT

- Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Meetings, held on January 16th and January 22nd and 23rd, respectively.
- The Eastern plant board/CAPS meeting scheduled to be held in April 2020 was cancelled due to the developing COVID-19 situation.
 - Gerda Magana presented a virtual poster on CAPS and PPA 2020 pests at virtual Plant Science Day, held on August 5 (hosted by CAES).
 - Webinars
 - Gerda Magana attended the following webinars:
 - 4-29-20 - Virtual Forest Health Meeting: Oak Diseases of Concern in the Eastern U.S given by Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation.
 - 4-29-20 - CAPS Webinar - Objective Prioritization of Exotic Pests (OPEP).
 - 6-10-20 - Beyond the media: The Facts about the Asian Giant Hornet (aka ‘Murder Hornet’) Webinar hosted by The NY Invasive Species Research Institute.
 - 8-12-20 – Root and Stem Rots, New Hampshire Extension Webinar.
 - 10-20-20 – Deer, Invasives, Residual Density and Forest Regeneration webinar.
 - 10-21-20 - “Pollinator Pathways and The Green Corridor: Improving Biodiversity on Protected Land in Our Own Yards” webinar.
 - 10-28-20 – Webinar by CAES: Discovery of a New Diaporthe Pathogen Affecting Hops in Connecticut.
 - Other meeting:
 - N/A
 - Training:
 - Katherine Dugas trained Gerda, the new CT SSC, on NAPIS database use and data entry (March-April).
 - Katherine Dugas trained Gerda Magana, the new CT SSC and two summer workers in trapping, screening, and survey functions during trapping season. (May-June)
 - 4-15-20 – Gerda Magana had data training with Cynthia Music.
 - 6-15-20 – CAPS online workplan presentation by Cindy Music, CAPS, Purdue University.
 - Throughout the year, Gerda Magana had seven different training sessions on the use of EzFedGrants.
 - 8-5-20 – PPA Section 7721 Help Session Webinar.
 - In August, Katherine Dugas trained Gerda Magana and Sara Carson (seasonal employee) on how to do visual survey for spotted lanternfly, citrus longhorned beetle, Japanese oak wilt, and phytoplasmas.
 - 9-23-20 – Gerda Magana participated in training on SLF Grid Survey given by Nichole Carrier.

- 10-6-20 – Gerda Magana provided ArcGIS App and SLF grid survey training to CAES staff.
- 11-12-20 – Gerda Magana participated in training on NAPIS data entry given by Nichole Carrier.
- 11-13-20 – Gerda Magana in training, ESRI AGOL PPQ CT SLF Group overview/data, given by Nichole Carrier, USDA.
- November 18, 2020, Gerda Magana and Sara Carson (seasonal employee) attended a hands-on training on identifying SLF egg masses with Nichole Carrier, USDA APHIS PPQ.

- B.** If appropriate, explain why objectives were not met. *
The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in most scheduled meetings and conferences post March 2020 to be either fully cancelled or reduced to virtual sessions.
- C.** Where appropriate, explain any cost overruns or unobligated funds in excess of \$1,000. *
No cost overruns have occurred.
- D.** Was all Pest Detection / CAPS survey data entered into the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS)? If not, please provide a justification.
All CAPS survey data was entered into the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS). On August 4, 2020, Gerda Magana entered New in State record for *Tricoferus campestris* trapped during CAPS 2020 Survey.
- E.** Supporting Documents.

CAPS Committee Meeting Minutes:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Updates of 2020 CAPS and PPQ surveys and outreach programs
 - Robert Marra – Beech Leaf Disease (CAES). Causal Agent: *Litylenchus creantae* – leaf gall nematode. First identified in Ohio in 2012. In 2018 found in OH, NY, ON, and PA. In 2019 found in Fairfield County, Connecticut. In 2020 – confirmed cases in New Haven, New London, and Middlesex counties. Also found in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.
 - Surveys conducted by The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES). 50 CAPS sites up and 20 Orchard sites set up by the end of June
 - Surveys conducted by USDA APHIS PPQ. 30 WBBB Hardwood forest plots – cemeteries. Fairfield, New London and Windham Counties.
 - Carole Cheah – Mile-a-Minute biological control summary update (UConn + CAES). Invasive plant – annual in CT. Early spring germination slow in cool spring. CT has 59 Mile-a-Minute positive towns.
 - Clair Rutledge – *Cerceris* bio surveillance update (CAES). Mostly homeowner reports. Wasp Watchers citizen science bio-survey – 34 watchers, mostly ‘veterans’.
 - Abby Beissinger – plant diagnostic lab update (UConn). No site or visit drop offs. Diagnostics reopened early May – mostly photos, very few vegetable

- samples yet. Seeing a lot of apple scab and apple rust. All kinds of scales. First Allium leaf miner – prefers leek, but also garlic and onion.
- Mary Concklin – pest update (UConn). Seeing fire blight, spotted wing drosophila (especially on cherries). Apple scab under control, powdery mildew too due to dry weather.
 - 2020 Forest and Agricultural Pest Outreach. Starting July – adjustments due to Covid-19, virtual meetings, online, social media, billboard? 84 vs 95 for billboard.
 - 2021 Survey plans:
 - CAES Surveys:
 - CAPS Combined Hardwood and Softwood Survey – 50 sites, continue at previous sites. Maybe take off *Spodoptera litura* – might not survive in CT.
 - Plant Protection Act Survey suggestions: Vegetable Crops (30 sites) and Forest Pest Outreach.
 - USDA APHIS PPQ Surveys:
 - Softwood targets, same type of risk sites
 - Other old or new business:
 - Next State CAPS Committee meeting will be in fall 2020.
 - Asian Longhorned Beetle found in South Carolina
 - Do outreach for it to tree industries. Quarantine zone in progress, needs environmental assessment before tree removal, semi tropical climate, different lifecycle.

**indicates information is required per 7 CFR 3016.40 and 7 CFR 3019.51*