



The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program in Idaho Agriculture

What is the CAPS Program?

The **Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program (CAPS)** is a federal program coordinated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) in collaboration with state departments of agriculture. The program monitors insect and other plant pests that threaten Idaho's agricultural and natural ecosystems, facilitating early detection, rapid response and management actions needed to address introduced pests. The CAPS Program provides funding and support for state partners to conduct science-based surveys for exotic plant pests, diseases, and weeds that have been identified as threats to U.S. agriculture.

Every year, USDA APHIS PPQ enters into cooperative agreements with state departments of agriculture, universities, and other entities. Surveys conducted through the CAPS Program in Idaho fields and other facilities represent an important line of defense against the entry and establishment of harmful plant pests and weeds.

For many years, the **Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)** has partnered with CAPS to protect Idaho agriculture from introductions of high risk invasive pests that could damage Idaho crops and forests and negatively impact export activities.

How does the CAPS Program benefit Idaho agriculture?

Early detection of exotic pests, before they have a chance to establish and cause significant damage, is crucial to their eradication or management. CAPS provides Idaho and other U.S. states with a strong domestic agricultural pest detection system. The program incorporates a continuum of checks from offshore preclearance programs, domestic port inspections to surveys in rural and urban sites. Some of the features of CAPS include:

- A structured, transparent assessment process to identify pest threats
- Scientifically sound pest diagnostics and survey protocols
- Provision of survey materials to each participating state (traps, lures, etc.)
- Timely reporting of pest survey results into an approved national database
- Ensuring that the data collected is valid and of high quality
- Notification of significant pest detections through established protocols to both national and local stakeholders.



Which crops does the Idaho CAPS survey program target?

The type of crops surveyed in Idaho by CAPS is rotated every year and is determined by risk. New pest threats to the U.S. that could establish in Idaho may be given priority. In the past few years, CAPS has conducted surveys for the following:

Crop/Site	Organisms
Corn	Black maize beetle, cotton cutworm, false codling moth, old world bollworm, cereal leaf beetle
Wheat	Karnal bunt, exotic wheat stem rust, Egyptian cottonworm, Khapra beetle, wheat seed gall nematode
Barley	Haanchen barley mealybug
Beans	Mexican bean beetle, Asian soybean rust
Potatoes	Potato tuberworm, potato exotic nematodes, old world bollworm
Stone fruit	Oriental fruit moth, plum pox virus
Grapes	Light brown apple moth, viral diseases, grape mealybug
Nurseries, pine tree plantations	European pine shoot moth, gypsy moth, Japanese beetle
Home gardens	Brown garden snail

How are sites chosen for CAPS surveys?

Sites for traps or sampling are determined by the CAPS State Survey Coordinator. Counties where the crop in question is more abundant will receive a higher proportion of traps or sampling activities so that the risk status in the state is fairly represented. After that, fields or sites are chosen randomly within the county.

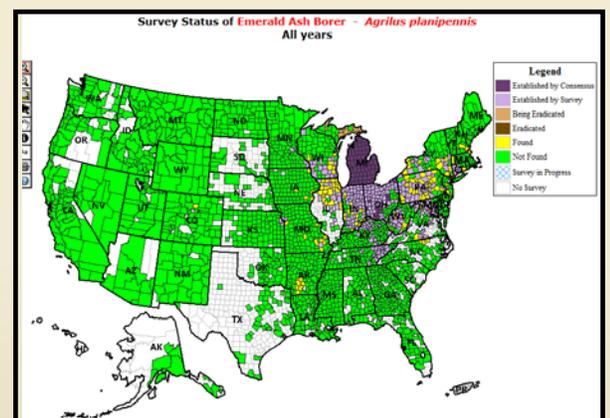
How is the data obtained from CAPS surveys used?

All information obtained from Idaho CAPS surveys, along with data from other states, is entered into a national database used by decision makers at Federal and state levels. The data allows for the development of strategies for both big picture and local management of invasive species.

Members of the public can view maps generated with CAPS data by visiting USDA's **Pest Tracker** Web site at:

<http://pest.ceris.purdue.edu/>

The site allows the viewer to look up invasive pests by both common and scientific names and check their status in the U.S.



A map of the survey status of Emerald Ash Borer from the Pest Tracker Web site.

For more information on the Idaho CAPS program, contact the ISDA CAPS State Survey Coordinator:



Dr. Paul Castrovillo
 CAPS State Survey Coordinator
 Division of Plant Industries
 Idaho State Department of Agriculture
 2270 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, ID 83712
 Phone: 208-332-8627, Fax: 208-334-2283
 E-mail: paul.castrovillo@agri.idaho.gov

