

## **PPQ 2025 Annual Report**

### **Pest Detection**

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#### Introduction

The goal of programs funded by Pest Detection is to survey and evaluate the presence or absence of plant pests and diseases of significance in the United States. This information is the basis of PPQ’s efforts to preserve economic opportunities for farmers (i.e., interstate commerce and international trade) and safeguard U.S. agricultural and natural resources from the risks associated with the entry, establishment, or spread of plant pests, diseases, pathogens, and noxious weeds. The programs collaborate with Federal agencies, State departments of agriculture, Tribes, academic institutions, and industry partners in all 50 States and several U.S. Territories to conduct activities.

#### Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey

PPQ and its cooperators carry out plant pest surveys through programs funded by the pest detection line item, including the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program. APHIS provides national coordination, develops policies and procedures for surveys, and provides funding to cooperators to conduct surveys through CAPS.

Programs funded by Pest Detection also coordinate development of survey tools for high-risk pests. In FY 2025, PPQ continued developing suitability maps to help State cooperators determine which high-risk pests

to target for survey efforts. PPQ completed 5 maps during FY 2025 for pests of concern, bringing the total number of maps to 38. Overall, programs funded by Pest Detection enable PPQ and its cooperators to conduct surveys and collect data about pests and use the resulting data to make decisions aimed at averting economic and environmental damage.

In FY 2025, PPQ and cooperators in 50 States and 3 Territories conducted surveys targeting a total of 208 unique pests, including 97 out of the 105 pests that PPQ's CAPS Committee identified as high risk. When combined with surveys funded by Plant Protection Act Section 7721, PPQ and cooperators targeted 104 out of the 105, or 99 percent, of the identified high-risk plant pests. Also in FY 2025, PPQ evaluated and/or responded to 16 pest detections that were the first confirmed records in the United States. PPQ evaluated and/or is responding to approximately 29 pests detected in prior fiscal years.

## Approach to Pest Detection

Evaluating these detections allows PPQ and State officials to determine whether regulatory or mitigation measures are necessary to manage the potential impacts of the pests or diseases. In consultation with stakeholders, PPQ determined eight pests do not require regulatory measures and changed the regulatory pest status from quarantine to non-quarantine. In addition to providing data for determining when pest response activities are needed in the United States, PPQ uses the survey data to support U.S. farmers' access to export markets. In FY 2025, PPQ used the data in bilateral trade discussions, pest risks assessments supporting U.S. exports, and issuance of phytosanitary certificates.

Early pest detection is important to avert economic and environmental damage. In addition to lost farm revenues and damage to ecosystems, the mitigation costs can reach millions of dollars once a pest becomes established or spreads significantly. While many entities are involved in protecting crops and resources, PPQ verifies that U.S. products do not pose risks to other countries. Pest surveys conducted through the CAPS program demonstrate absence of a pest and are used in some cases to address importing countries' phytosanitary requirements and retain access to foreign markets.

## Canine Detection and Surveillance

In FY 2025, PPQ continued developing canines for pest surveillance efforts, focusing on Asian longhorned beetle, (ALB), coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB), giant African snail (GAS), Japanese beetle (JB) and

spotted lanternfly (SLF). PPQ continued to support Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine's Canine Production Sciences program for the ALB, SLF, and JB projects. As a result, Auburn University transferred three ALB trained detector canines to PPQ in mid-FY 2025 and plans to transfer one SLF trained detector canine. Due to challenges with the JB project (securing training materials and successful larval confirmation in field trials), PPQ decided to limit the project to train and test the use of canines to detect JB larvae to proof of concept only and to end the project without taking possession of the canines.

From July through September 2025, PPQ deployed three ALB detector canine teams to Massachusetts and New York to determine the support canine teams can provide to the ongoing ALB eradication efforts and to gather data to develop performance metrics for the effectiveness of detector dog usage in the program.

PPQ's National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC) trained two new canines to detect SLF for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA), two canines to detect CRB in Hawaii, and one new canine to detect GAS in Florida. The SLF canine teams, deployed in July 2025, found new confirmed detections of SLF in Sumner and Jefferson Counties. PPQ deployed a fruit fly (Mexfly) detector canine to assist with the fruit fly emergency program in Texas. The program continued two projects to develop canine training tools based on the odor profile of the target pest (GAS and fruit flies). In FY 2025 the NDDTC trained 48 handlers and canines, supporting training and recertification for several stakeholders, offering agricultural detector canine handler trainings to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and completed the annual recertification of canines for CDFA and FDACS.

Additionally, PPQ continued its work on a five-year (FY 2025 through FY 2029) strategic plan for the program. The program identified five goals for the program:

1. Develop framework to identify priorities and manage requests.
2. Ensure compliance with federal regulations/requirements and industry standards for health, wellness, training, and utilization for PPQ and PPQ-supported canine programs.
3. Establish a clear process to obtain the best available training materials (field and training centers).
4. Outreach to stakeholders to promote and educate on Agricultural Detector Canine Utilization mission and capabilities.
5. Program Evaluation: Identify metrics and show value/results/success.

As part of Goal 1, APHIS developed a written methodology to analyze proposed detector canine projects based upon pest importance and feasibility. PPQ will use this methodology to analyze new projects submissions in FY 2026.