



Program Progress and Strategic Planning Discussed in NCPN Cooperators Meeting

The WERA-20 Meeting was hosted in Raleigh, North Carolina September 8-10, 2025. This annual meeting focuses on Management of Diseases Caused by Systemic Pathogens in Temperate and Sub-Tropical Fruit Crops and Woody Ornamentals. WERA-20 participants include several National Clean Plant Network members, and this year the meeting featured a special full-day session focused on the Network as a whole. The goal of this NCPN Cooperators session was to feature the progress and technical advances of the NCPN over the program history, and to discuss cross-network initiatives and future strategies to sustain it into the future.

The session included highlights of advances over the last several years in Clean Plant Center operations, diagnostic technologies, and therapeutics as well as accomplishments in cross-network initiatives for outreach, quality, economic analysis, and data management. The final session focused on a review of national and crop group strategic planning efforts, and a group discussion of potential areas of focus for the next few years. As the current national [NCPN 2021-2025 Strategic Plan](#) is reaching the end of its original planning period, this was an opportunity to review

how the network has made progress in its goals, and set the stage to review and refresh the Plan over the coming year. All presentations are archived and available to the NCPN community on the NCPN website at the [NCPN Newsletter site](#).

Session Presentations:

- Progress in the National Clean Plant Network Program – Jennifer Nicholson, USDA-APHIS
- NCPN Advances at Foundation Plant Services – Maher Al Rwahnih, University of California, Davis
- Advances in Clean Citrus – Georgios Vidalakis, University of California, Riverside
- Three years in: Building a fully functional Arkansas Center – Ioannis Tzanetakis, University of Arkansas
- Update from the Oregon Clean Plant Center – Cristian Olaya, Oregon State University
- NCPN Economic Working Group Studies – Kristen Park, Cornell University
- NCPN Quality: A Forum for Exchange on Best Practices – Irene Lavagi-Craddock and Fatima Osman, University of California, Riverside and Davis
- NCPN ADAPT Core – Karl Krist, University of California, Davis
- Overview of NCPN Strategic Planning efforts, challenges and opportunities – Jennifer Nicholson



NCPN Cooperators hold a planning session during the 2025 WERA-20 meeting in Raleigh NC.

NCPN Program Updates from Jennifer Nicholson

As the Coordinator for the National Clean Plant Network program, I would like to share some program updates for the Network. First, I am pleased to announce an increase in NPCN program funding. The Plant Protection Act Section 7721 program recently received an increase in funding from \$75 million to \$90 million. PPA 7721 funds projects through the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program and the National Clean Plant Network. Starting in FY 2026, the NCPN program will receive a total of \$10 million in funding, up from \$8 million in 2025.

I would also like to welcome some new and incoming members to the NCPN Governing Board representing APHIS, and the Southern and Central regions of the National Plant Board. Many thanks to rotating members Jeff Hash (APHIS), Elizabeth Dorman (Michigan), and Greg Hodges (Florida) for their contributions to the NCPN over the last few years. The full list of NCPN Governing Board members in 2026 is:

USDA – National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Tom Bewick, National Program Leader, Horticulture

Amer Fayad, National Program Leader, Division of Plant Systems Protection

USDA – Agricultural Research Service

Gary Kinard, Research Leader, National Germplasm Resources Laboratory

USDA –APHIS

Christina Devorshak, Associate Executive Director, PPQ Field Operations

Oscar Hurtado, Lead Plant Pathologist, PPQ Plant Germplasm Quarantine Program

National Plant Board (State) Representatives

Central Region: **Stefanie Rhodes**, Plant Pathology Laboratory Manager, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Eastern Region: **Chris Logue**, Director, Division of Plant Industry, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

Southern Region: **Justin Ezell**, Chief, Bureau of Budwood Registration, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Western Region: **Elizabeth Savory**, Program Manager, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Finally, I would like to announce that the Network will be reviving the NCPN Industry Committee this fall, with industry representation across all seven crop groups. The purpose of this committee is to provide a cross-commodity industry perspective on the National Clean Plant Network program and will focus on discussion of Network strategic priorities and key issues. This group will also support communication to provide industry insights to the national NCPN Governing Board.

The coming year marks a time of transition in the Network with the first substantial increase in funding in several years, and the end of the planning period for the NCPN 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, and the Industry Committee will provide valuable input on future directions.

NCPN Industry Committee representatives

Citrus:	Roger Smith, AC Foods and Danny Finch, Record Buck Farms
Grapes:	Keith Striegler, E&J Gallo and Dennis Rak, Double A Vineyards
Fruit Tree:	Reid Robinson, Sierra Gold Nursery; Jason Rodgers, Titan Farms and Dale Goldy, Gold Crown Nursery
Berries:	Ellen Thompson, Hortifruit Genetics and Jon Umble, Fall Creek Farm and Nursery
Sweetpotato:	Matt Alvernaz, California Sweet Potato Growers
Hops:	Graham Ollard, Hollingbery and Son Hops
Roses:	Dan Waterhouse, Neuhouse Farms



ADAPT Core for Clean Plant Center Data Management

Over the last several years, National Clean Plant Network Centers and crop committees have discussed the need for better tools to manage the data behind virus testing and plant management. NCPN Centers vary greatly in size and scope and currently there is not a standardized data management approach across NCPN member Centers. Frequently testing and collection records are kept in Excel spreadsheets, but spreadsheets are not efficient and are limited in the ability to link data between plants, testing results and customer samples.

As a result many Centers have been looking for a better system to support quality management efforts and efficient operations. Foundation Plant Services (FPS) has spent over 10 years building and using an in-house-developed tool for advanced disease and plant testing named “ADAPT”. In FY25, beginning September 1st, NCPN is supporting a pilot project to leverage the experience of the FPS IT team translating the ADAPT tools to be available to multiple NCPN Centers. This project, “ADAPT Core”, aims to provide Centers with a standardized, interoperable digital system to ensure efficiency, traceability, and quality of all data within participating Clean Plant Centers.

In the first phase of work the programmers are building their understanding of how each Center is currently managing data. Three Centers are currently working with the development team: the Arkansas and Oregon Berry Centers and the North Carolina multi-crop Clean Plant Center. The result of this work will be standardized data formats that can be used throughout the NCPN system, development of a system to manage provenance of accessions, sample registry with unique IDs, provenance history, and physical location tracking of plants and samples. When these core tools are completed and the three test Centers successfully onboarded, the tool will be made available for other Centers to join.

NCPN Database

SAMPLE SETS PLANTS & SAMPLES LIST ADMINISTRATION

Plants & Samples

- SAMPLE SETS
- PLANTS & SAMPLES LIST
- LABELS
- SAMPLE UPLOAD HISTORY

Diagnostics

- TEST RESULT UPLOADS
- TEST TYPES

Administration

- MANAGE UNITS
- USERS
- ROLES BY USER
- ROLES BY ROLE
- CACHE MANAGEMENT

Diagnostic Testing - Sample 15 (SID: 15) [CREATE DUPLICATES] [EDIT]

Sample Type: Plant Material
 Location: Landscape
 Variety: 2.01.232
 Duplicated To: [235](#) [236](#) [237](#) [238](#) [239](#) [403](#) [404](#)

Local ID: 23
 PlantType: Cherry
 Customer: Pete's 24-7

Test Results

Method	Test	Result	Date	CT Value	Superseded	Comments
PCR	P-ACLSV	NEG	18-Jun-2025	5.0		
PCR	P-ApMV	NEG	18-Jun-2025	2.0		
PCR	P-PBNSPaV	POS	18-Jun-2025	31.0		possible contamination, re-test
PCR	P-Phyto	NEG	18-Jun-2025	4.0		
PCR	P-PLMVd	NEG	18-Jun-2025	1.0		

Associated Sample Sets

- [Beaver State Berries](#)
- [Tissue Culture in Next Cycle](#)

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