

Northeast Area Stakeholder Engagement Meeting for Biological Control

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service

April 14th, 2024: 8:15 AM – 5:00 PM

Morning Workshop (8:15 – 12:45)

Welcome and Introduction (8:15 – 8:45): Drs. Nora Lapitan and Steve Young, USDA-ARS Office of National Programs; Representatives of the Northeast Area Director.

- Needs for and economic benefits of biological control in sustainable pest management
- Overview of ARS national programs for biological control: environmental sustainability, long-term durability, product development cycles

Biological control programs in USDA ARS Northeast Area (8:45 – 9:45): Speakers and panelists from the NEA.

- Current research projects on biological control and future challenges
- Successful biological control

Break (9:45 – 10:00)

Breakout discussions (10:00 – 11:00): Facilitated by NEA scientists.

- Matching scientific efforts and stakeholder needs to support product delivery and sustain long-term success
 - Plant pathogens: Drs. Bushley and Collum
 - Weeds and invasive plants, Drs. Milbrath, Gates and Fulcher
 - Arthropod pests: Drs. Gundersen-Rindal and Duan

Large group discussion (11:00 – 11:45): Facilitated by NEA scientists.

- Report back on panel discussions
- Generate solutions to challenges

Stakeholder Q&A (11:45 – 12:15): Facilitated by Office of National Programs and NEA Director.

- Open discussion of opportunities for further engagement

Break for Lunch (12:15 – 12:45)

Afternoon Laboratory Site Visits (12:45 – 5:00)

Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit, Fort Detrick, MD

Systematic Entomology Lab, Beltsville, MD

Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory, Beltsville, MD