



APS & BPIA

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Objectives

- Introduction to APS & PPB
- PPB's Federal Priorities
- Working Together
- APS & Biopesticides

APS & PPB: The Basics

- The American Phytopathological Society (APS) is a non-profit, professional scientific organization representing over 4,500 scientists and practitioners of plant pathology dedicated to the study, diagnostics, and management of plant diseases.
- Within APS, the Public Policy Board (PPB) provides scientific input to public policy-making processes. It provides input directly to agency and legislative staff, and partners with other scientific societies and nonprofit organizations to advance policy priorities.
- In addition, PPB works to sustain our role as a go-to resource for objective scientific information for policy makers and legislative staff.

APS & PPB: PPB Interns

- Opportunity for early-career scientists to gain experience with and exposure to policy issues and strategies for policy engagement.
- Former APS PPB interns include Dr. Angela Records (USDA FFAR Chief Scientific Officer) and Dr. LaKisha Odom (USDA FFAR Scientific Program Director).

APS's Federal Priorities

- We are a large and diverse society
- We use multiple mechanisms to establish our priorities
 - Regular listening sessions open to all members
 - Input from Subject Matter Committees
 - Targeted solicitations on critical topics or legislation

Specific priorities evolve, but some overarching priorities remain stable over time

APS's Current Federal Priorities

- **Workforce:** Work with Congress & agencies to create strong pipeline into the plant pathology workforce.
- **Federal Funding:** Maintain/increase top-line funding levels for USDA, NSF, and EPA programs; increase funding for capacity-building grants. *This is an overarching, sustained priority for APS over time.*
- **Protecting the National Plant Diagnostic Network:** Reauthorize NDPN in Farm Bill and secure full funding for program.
- **OneHealth:** Incorporate plant health into federal national security discussions.
- **Regulatory Certainty:** Progress/maintain regulations so that plant pathology can thrive. **This includes consideration of regulatory issues around biological products!**

APS Engagement: Endangered Species Act

- Challenges for integration of ESA requirements on the regulatory pathway for traditional fungicides as well as potential impacts on regulatory requirements for biopesticides, biostimulants, and biofertilizers
 - We play a unique role as a nexus between growers, academia, and industry.
 - Need more scientific content to build understanding and consensus
- PPB priorities short-term:
 - Hosting listening sessions & longer-form sessions at our annual meetings and in webinars to educate our members and identify concerns.
- Work actively with other societies to lend a voice as we distinguish our unique priorities on the topic.
- **We are eager to partner with BPIA on ESA solutions.**

Working Together to Drive Change

- APS works on its own and in collaboration with others to advocate for our federal priorities. Our advocacy includes:
 - Regular letters of support for funding & authorizing language
 - Consistent engagement in federal register requests for comments, e.g. regulatory issues
 - Active engagement with congressional and agency staff with in-person fly-ins, virtual visits, and incorporating agency staff within the agenda of our national conferences
 - Collaboration with scientific societies and relevant non-profit groups to strategize on longer-term federal priorities

Building Sustainable Policy Success

- Speak up for science
- Engage internally, within APS, to leverage our scientific expertise and identify clear priorities
- Engage externally with partner societies and interest groups to amplify our voice
- Engage regularly with congressional and agency staff: relationship building increases credibility and long-term success
- Lean into those spaces where our scientific voice provides unique and critical insights to policy issues and funding needs

An illustration on a teal background with horizontal lines. At the bottom, there are five stylized human figures with orange, vertically-lined bodies and black outlines. Above them is a large, white, cloud-like shape filled with a dense, black, tangled scribble. Lines connect the figures to the edges of the scribble. On the right side, a semi-transparent teal rectangle overlaps the illustration, containing the text "Questions?".

Questions?