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Dear NCERA-148 Members and Participants,

I am pleased to invite you to the annual meeting of NCERA-148: Migration and Dispersal of Agriculturally Important Biota, which will be held in Minneapolis, MN, October 3-5. Hotel and local arrangements are being organized by Bill Hutchison and Rob Venette, and will be announced soon. A first draft of the Agenda is attached – it is rough at this point, but will give you an idea of the projected time frame and structure of the meeting.

The new LAMS (Lepidopteran Aerobiology Monitoring System) Working Group will meet Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 3, beginning at 1:00. This new initiative was originally organized by Shelby Fleisher, Scott Isard, and Bill Hutchison and participants met for the first time in June of this year for a 2-day workshop. Its goal is to develop appropriate models for migratory lepidopterans, and to use the PIPE platform to provide real-time forecasts of migratory pest risk. The PIPE (Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education), developed by Scott Isard and colleagues, has proven very successful in predicting soybean rust risk in North America, and more recently was adapted to provide predictions of soybean aphid risk. LAMS will focus first on adapting *Helicoverpa zea* to the platform, then will expand to include other lepidopterans. Several of the LAMS participants also are active in NCERA-148, and it seemed logical to the members of both groups present at the workshop to give LAMS an official home within NCERA-148 as a Working Group. All NCERA-148 members with interest in the LAMS initiative are welcome to attend the Wednesday meeting. Likewise, we welcome the LAMS participants into NCERA-148, and hope you can stay for the larger meeting following on Thursday and Friday.

The meeting of the full group of NCERA-148 will convene at 8:30 Thursday morning, Oct 4, and will adjourn about noon on Friday, Oct. 5. Thursday will be comprised of committee business, and the State Reports. Friday morning will be devoted to invited presentations and special student presentations. If you would like to make a more formal presentation of something outside or in addition to your state report, or if you would like (or would like me) to invite a speaker on a particular topic, please let me know, and I will work it into the agenda.

In keeping with the initiative begun last year under Rob Venette's leadership, we are particularly interested in inviting graduate students and postdocs to present their dispersal-related research to the group. This serves to introduce and integrate them into the larger network of fellow scientists working in the field of dispersal, and provides the students with valuable feedback from experienced researchers. They represent potential future members of NCERA-148, and this is a good way to demystify the committee for them and to get them interested in joining us in years to come. I have included the names of two students on the draft agenda who have indicated to me an interest in attending and presenting at the meeting this year. We have room for several more! Please take the initiative to invite any students/postdocs in your projects, or students you otherwise know, to present

their research at our meeting. Then let me know who it is and a title, and I will reserve a time slot for them on the agenda.

Please RSVP myself ([Tom.Sappington@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Tom.Sappington@ars.usda.gov)) or Shelby ([sjf4@psu.edu](mailto:sjf4@psu.edu)) as to whether or not you plan to attend, and which days you intend to be there. This will help us in planning the logistics. Speakers, please provide me with a title of your choosing – I simply guessed for the draft. (If you see yourself listed as a speaker, but cannot or do not wish to present, let me know and I'll take you off.)

Thank you very much, and I look forward to seeing you all in Minneapolis!

Sincerely,

--Tom Sappington, Chair

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