

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) Research Facilitation Process

The [Spotted Lanternfly \(SLF\) 5-year Strategy](#) (Strategic Plan) for Fiscal Years 2024-2028 outlines the national strategy for the future direction of the SLF program. Over the next 5 years, Federal and State partners will work to limit the advancement of the pest and further scientific research toward the development of tools and pest management options.

The SLF Research Facilitation Process (RFP) provides a practical approach for Federal and State partners, universities and research institutes to fulfill the Strategic Plan's research component (Goal 2, Objective 2). The process will:

- Identify and prioritize operational and stakeholder needs
- Support the development and delivery of SLF tools and methods
- Identify and track the status of federally funded SLF research
- Provide SLF research transparency and the judicious use of resources
- Support SLF research engagement, coordination and communication
- Serve as a conduit for funding new SLF research

Needs Assessment

The SLF National Policy Manager (NPM) will lead a series of meetings with National Plant Board (NPB) representatives (2 members from each of the 4 regions) to identify and develop a list of SLF operational and stakeholder needs. The NPM will share the list with the SLF Cross-Functional Working Group (Emergency Domestic Programs, Field Operations and Science and Technology (S&T)) to cross-check and prioritize the needs based on the SLF Strategic Plan. Moving forward, the working group will share the ranked-ordered list with APHIS' SLF Research Coordination Group

SLF Research Coordination

The APHIS SLF Research Coordination Group—led by SLF S&T—will create and update a roster of (completed and current) SLF research projects from research institutions and federal agencies. Members of the group will include representatives from Agriculture Research Service, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, university partners and industry researchers. The group will compare the SLF ranked-ordered needs document against the roster of SLF research projects and provide quarterly updates. This coordinated effort will enhance transparency and communication, eliminate duplicative research efforts, and potentially increase the timely delivery of tools, methods and practical pest management.

Communication of Research to Stakeholders

SLF S&T Staff Scientist will facilitate the transfer of research outcomes and deliverables for stakeholders to consider using in their ongoing SLF control efforts. They will work with APHIS-funded research projects' primary investigators to create protocols, manuals, or other end-user products for stakeholders. The yearly outcomes of

any ongoing or continuing research will be shared with the SLF Research Coordination Group to help inform decisions on the value of continuation of funding, as well as to update research priorities.

SLF Project Solicitation and Research

Identified SLF needs will direct research priorities. APHIS will fund projects that align with the Strategic Plan and identified priorities. Funding groups participating in the SLF research coordination group will be encouraged to follow the RFP process when considering funding SLF research or requesting research proposals. The SLF cross functional working group (CFWG) will review all proposals/suggestions, progress, and results.