

## **USDA AGENCIES SIGN MOU AT NCPN MEETING IN D.C.**

The National Clean Plant Network Governing Body convened on March 25-26, 2009, at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Three USDA agencies – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) – signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperatively support research, quarantine and outreach activities for the newly-formed National Clean Plant Network (NCPN). For additional information about the MOU, see

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2009/03/mou3agen.shtml>

The five members of the current NCPN Governing Body (Tier 1) were introduced at the meeting. Those representatives are: Bill Dickerson (ARS, Center for Plant Health, Science & Technology, North Carolina), Wayne Dixon (State Department of Agriculture, Florida); Joseph Postman (USDA, Corvallis, Oregon); Ken Rauscher (Plant Board and State Department of Agriculture, Michigan); and Tom Wessels (State Department of Agriculture, Washington State). A Core Working Group (CWG) composed of representatives of the three USDA agencies has oversight of the Tier 1 Board. Those CWG representatives are: Murali Bandla (ARS); Tom Bewick (CSREES); and Gail Wisler (ARS).

The purpose of the NCPN meeting was to introduce participants to the governance structures established to date for the grape and fruit tree networks, to provide an update on NCPN activities and to conduct discussions on the NCPN Business Plan and Request for Proposals for funding. Reports were given for various commodities (grapes, fruit trees, citrus). The NCPN Business Plan was discussed and approved by NCPN members.

For more detail on the agenda, minutes and presentations from the March 25-26 meeting, please see the button entitled “TIER 1 MTG MARCH 2009” on the NCPN website Home Page (<http://groups.ucanr.org/ncpn/>).