



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Secretary Randy Romanski

DATE: November 14, 2024

TO: Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

FROM: Randy Romanski, Secretary

SUBJECT: PIB Lab and NPDN: Protecting Wisconsin Through Accurate Plant Pest and Disease Diagnostics

PRESENTED BY: Sam Fieweger, Plant Industry Bureau Lab Plant Pathologist Lead

REQUESTED ACTION: For information only.

SUMMARY:

DATCP's Plant Industry Bureau Laboratory (PIB Lab) provides plant pest and disease diagnostic support to the Bureau's Pest Survey, Nursery, Christmas Tree, Potato and Phytosanitary programs. In 2023, the PIB Lab became a National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) member lab. The NPDN comprises plant diagnostic labs in all U.S. states and territories with a shared mission to support plant health and biosecurity in the U.S. through diagnostic capacity building, coordination, quality information, and communication. The PIB Lab and NPDN have worked together as informal partners since 2008 and 2023 marks the first year the PIB Lab received member status and funding through the NPDN. Since joining as a member lab the PIB Lab has benefited from additional access to NPDN resources and funding to further protect Wisconsin's plant resources and industries through accurate plant disease diagnostics, access to technical trainings, and financial assistance to support hiring a summer LTE to assist diagnosticians and replace aging laboratory equipment.