



United States Department of Agriculture

**How the USA evaluates new pests found  
within its borders:**

# **New Pest Advisory Group**

**Heike Meissner, Director  
Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory  
PPQ, S&T**

October 2019

# Safeguarding Continuum





## Questions to answer

How serious is this pest?

Do we need to worry about it?

Is action feasible?

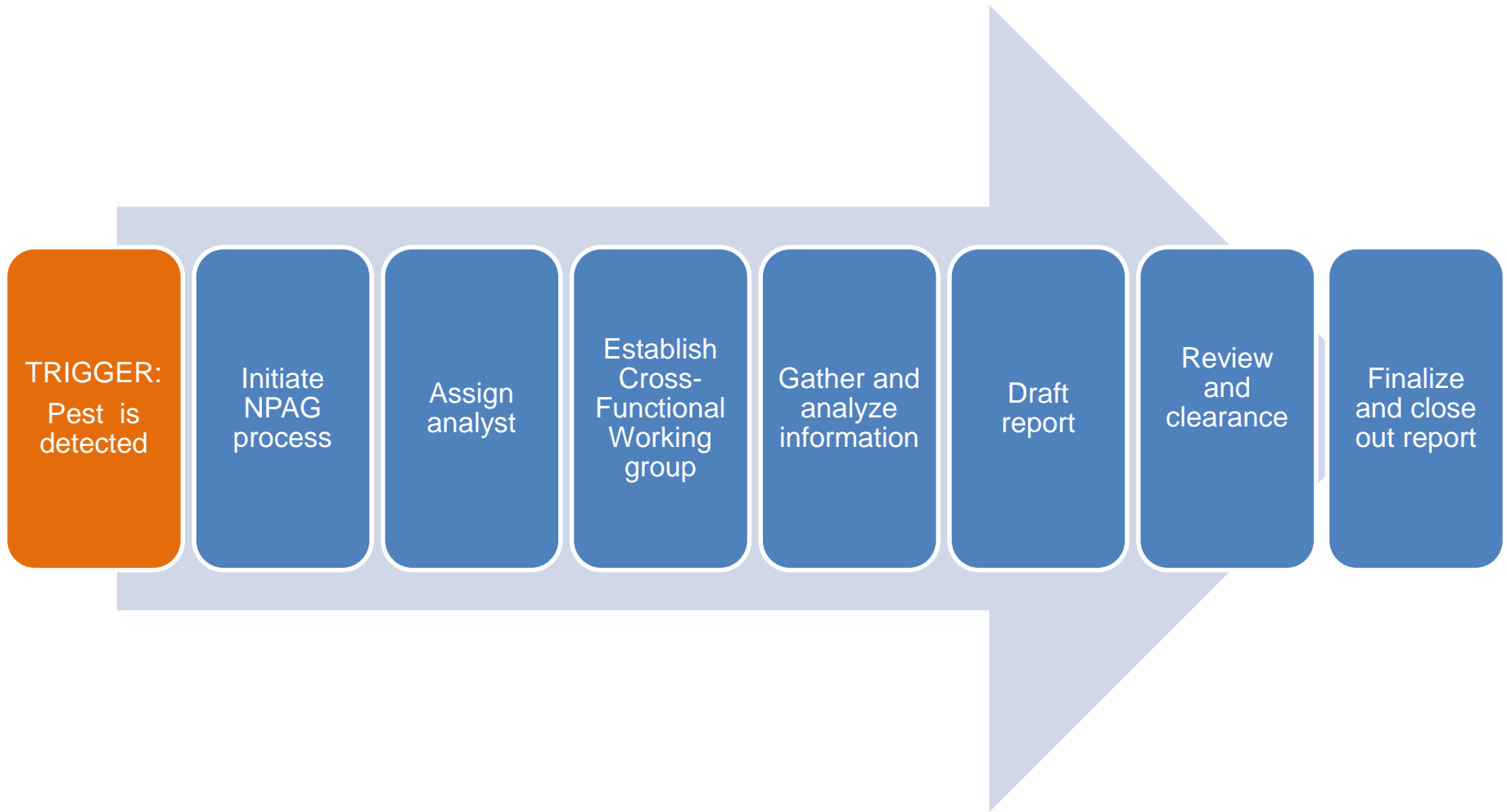
What should be the next steps?



## Outline of NPAG Report

- Initiating event
- Current PPQ port policy
- Exotic status
- Global distribution
- Host range
- Biology
- Known pest status
- Potential pathways of introduction
- Potential distribution and spread
- Detection
- Control
- Potential economic impacts
- Trade implications
- Potential environmental impacts
- Uncertainty
- Regulatory response and activities
- Recommendations

# The NPAG Process: Basic overview





# The NPAG Process: Collaboration and Inclusiveness

- CFWG ensures that all core functional areas of PPQ are included in the process
- Discussions among risk analysts ensure technical accuracy and credibility
- Input from SMEs provides specific information



# The NPAG Process: Review and Clearance

- Peers (analysts) review for technical accuracy and language
- NPAG Liaisons (representing all parts of PPQ) and CFWG review for accuracy and provide input on recommendations
- PPQ Management Team discusses and provides input
- National Plant Board and other stakeholders are consulted as appropriate
- PPQ Deputy Administrator makes final regulatory decision based on NPAG recommendations and stakeholder feedback



# Uncertainty

- Is a reality we have to accept.
- NPAG reports identify uncertainty associated with information in qualitative terms.
- A separate paragraph on uncertainty summarizes major knowledge gaps.





# Thank you!

Heike Meissner, PhD

Director

Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis  
Laboratory

[Heike.E.Meissner@usda.gov](mailto:Heike.E.Meissner@usda.gov)