

## **The Plant Pathogen Confirmatory Diagnostics Laboratory: Safeguarding US Agriculture and Natural Resources**

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The USDA APHIS PPQ Science and Technology (S&T) Plant Pathogen Confirmatory Diagnostics Laboratory (PPCDL) develops, adapts, validates, and utilizes diagnostic methods for the detection of regulated plant pathogens. The PPCDL is committed to quality in confirmatory molecular diagnostics and is the only Federal Plant Pathology ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accredited laboratory that conducts diagnostics for plant pathogens of regulatory concern. The laboratory uses cutting-edge technologies for accurate and rapid diagnosis of high-consequence plant pathogens, including select agent and exotic pathogens, and conducts molecular confirmation/identification of other plant pathogens of regulatory significance. The PPCDL is instrumental for building and maintaining laboratory testing capacity for screening diagnostic testing, as well as PPQ emergency response and eradication programs through technology transfer of clear-written standard operating procedures and hands-on laboratory training for end users within and outside of PPQ, and through proficiency testing. These activities also support the state of preparedness and rapid response to new incursions. This presentation will describe the PPCDL's functions, activities, and contributions to protect U.S. agriculture and natural ecosystems and its role in supporting national plant biosecurity.