New STAR-D website launched  

We are excited to announce the launch of a brand new website for the NPDN STAR-D laboratory accreditation program. The website, star-d.npdn.org features a modern layout, attractive graphics and an effective organization of materials. We want to thank the team at CERIS, Rachel Moore and Mike Hill, for their technical skill and hard work getting the site launched.

Since 2010, STAR-D has grown from merely a concept to a fully functioning accreditation program. The launch of the new website is another step forward in our goal of continual improvement. We recognized the need and importance for a “public” or non-password STAR-D website that people can view to learn about STAR-D. We had a great deal of material on the NPDN website—behind password protection—but nothing available for our members and leadership to provide for viewing by our funding partners; university faculty, supervisors and administrators; state and federal legislators; state and federal regulatory staff not associated with NPDN; etc. This new website helps tell our story in a concise but complete manner. It offers easy access to essential information and features. In addition to the home page, sections include STAR-D based training workshops, accredited labs, external auditors, accreditation board, and benefits.

We invite you to browse the new site and very much welcome your feedback. You can contact us with your ideas and suggestions by email: ddo1@cornell.edu. We will continue to improve the site to make it meet the needs of the NPDN membership while ensuring it is easy to navigate and as informative as possible.

Dawn Dailey O'Brien, NEPDN Cornell University
On February 8, 2018, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) announced the detection of a new invasive insect pest in Virginia. In early January, VDACS inspectors discovered the spotted lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, at a stone yard in Frederick County near Winchester. The spotted lanternfly is native to China, India and Vietnam, and prior to the January detection, was not known to occur in Virginia. Both SLF egg masses and dead adults were detected at the Winchester site.

The first U.S. detection of SLF occurred in 2014 at a Pennsylvania business that imports stone products. Stone products from that business went to the Winchester site. VDACS inspectors had been monitoring the Winchester site since 2015, with no positive detections until a routine follow up survey in January. Inspectors then found SLF on Ailanthus trees located on the property.

Early detection is vital for the management of any newly introduced plant pest. VDACS is now conducting a survey in the surrounding area in an effort to determine the extent of the infestation. VDACS is also working with Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to determine management and control strategies for SLF.

For more information on spotted lanternfly in Virginia, click [here](http://www.npdn.org) or contact Debra Martin, Program Manager in the VDACS Office of Plant Industry Services at 804.786.3515.

*This is an excerpt from a news release posted on the VDACS website on February 8, 2018. To read the full announcement visit [vdacs.virginia.gov/media-press-releases-18.shtml](http://vdacs.virginia.gov/media-press-releases-18.shtml).*
Upcoming events

Meetings

March 19–22, 2018
Ninth International Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Symposium
Baltimore, Maryland

July 29–August 3, 2018
International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) 2018
Boston, Massachusetts

August 12–16, 2018
National Plant Board 2018 Annual Meeting
Cleveland, Ohio

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Email Rachel McCarthy at rachel.mccarthy@cornell.edu

Catch the last 2018 GPDN webinar

March 7, 2018
How should biopesticides be evaluated and recommended for use in vegetable disease management programs?
Sally Miller, the Ohio State University

To connect visit npdn.org/gpdn/gpdn_webinars