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New quarantine resources for APHIS weed biological control implementation programs

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The Mission Biological Control Laboratory is part of the biological control effort of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine. Included with the Mission laboratory are the Bozeman Biocontrol Facility and the Niles Biological Control Laboratory. These three units comprise the working laboratories of the Biological Control Operations group. The Mission laboratory facilities have included a small quarantine for a number of years. Due to the increased workload of the weed biological control projects and the addition of new projects, the quarantine facility has been taxed beyond its design capabilities. The new quarantine offers adequate holding, rearing and laboratory space which should be sufficient for the agency's needs. Functions and program enhancements of the new APHIS quarantine include:

- Improved quarantine facility for weed and insect biological control projects, including quarantine greenhouse space.
- Provide quarantine service to cooperators involved with agency biological control projects.
- Provide quarantine rearing of pest insects for production of natural enemies.
- Allow for additional space for cooperators to perform quarantine studies and screening work.
- To provide quarantine services where no primary quarantine facility is available (Sweetpotato Whitefly).

The new quarantine resources provide enlarged and previously unavailable facilities at Mission, TX including quarantine greenhouse space comprising of 5 separate houses for a total of 630 sq. ft. of space. Three laboratory areas comprising over 860 sq. miles of space provide ample space for routine laboratory work and visiting scientists. Specific areas are dedicated to shipment receiving, identification functions and cold storage. The focal point of the facility space constitutes 12 walk-in environmental rearing chambers with over 750 sq. ft. of total space. Special features of the facility include a high capacity effluent treatment system with drowning baffle tank and automatic chlorine treatment tank. Emergency power generation provides a back up in case of electrical power failure.