HIS CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

CCHIS NEWSLETTER VOLUME 54 - ISSUE 2, JULY 2026

Photo by Tim B

his Central Chapter

2026 CCHIS Committees

These are standing committees. Members remain on committee(s) and can rotate on/off at the annual business meeting. **Committees meet as determined by the committee chair.** Contact the committee chair via email link with any questions, submissions, or to assist.

Executive Committee

President - Braden Hoch, KS
Vice President - Andrew Mathis, IL
Secretary - John Mortenson, ND
Treasurer - Liz Meils, WI
Newsletter Editor - Matthew Cullen, MO
Past President - Jeff Lounsbery, SD

Auditing Committee

CHAIR: Zach Starr, MO
Mike Hill, OH
Matt Hoffman, MN
Brittany Olson, MN
Liz Meils, WI (CCHIS Treasurer)

Purpose: Review the records maintained by the CC-HIS Treasurer prior to the annual business meeting.

Newsletter Committee

CHAIR: Matthew Cullen, MO (CCHIS Newsletter Editor)
Erin Lepski, KS
Rachel Bienemann, OH
Tim Boyle, WI
Ty Schaef, KS

Purpose: Generate 2+ CC-HIS newsletters/year. Generate content for other industry publications upon request.

Nominations/Awards Committee

CHAIR: Susan Ehlenbeck, MO

Matt Hoffman, MN
John Larsen, MN

Purpose: Nominate CC-HIS members for the officer positions. Elections are held at the annual business meeting. Solicit nominations for the annual McAdams Award.

Multi-State Inspection Committee

CHAIR: Mike Hill, OH
Matt Hoffman, MN
Ben Quisenberry, MO;
Mandy Tizon, MO
Robert Johnson, KS

Purpose: Communicate with CC-HIS states to select an annual hosting state for multi-state inspections, provide support to hosting state.

Virtual Meetings Committee

CHAIR: Eric Biddinger, IN
Lee Conner, MO
Amanda Tizon, MO
Tim Boyle, WI

Purpose: Coordinate 2+ virtual presentations/year on topics applicable to CCHIS members

Manual/Research/Education Committee

CHAIR: Rachel Wilkins, KS (HIS Manual Editor)
Dani Sackett, MN
Liz Meils, WI
Yuhong Li, MO
Thomas Jepsen, MI

Purpose: Update and develop articles for the CCHIS manual as determined by the Manual Chair or the membership. Follow current applicable research and distribute to CCHIS members. Generate or share educational content for inspectors.

Membership & Equity Committee

CHAIR: Eze Pojmann-Ezeonyilo, MO
Amy Kennedy, MI
Liz Meils, WI
Kelsey Ziebarth, MN

Purpose: Communicate with each state and strive for full membership and representation at HIS events. High recruitment and retention. Create opportunities to engage within our chapter and other chapters.

Annual Meeting Committee

CHAIR: Susan Ehlenbeck, MO
Ali Wright, IL; Joe Fujan, IL
Brittany Olson, MN; Charles Elhard, ND
Zach Starr, MO
Braden Hoch, KS
Liz Meils, WI

Purpose: Develop Hosting Manual for VP. Resource for current VP. Communicate with upcoming hosting states to confirm willingness to host

.

Resolutions Committee

CHAIR: Susan Ehlenbeck, MO
Braden Hoch, KS
Jeremy Maples, KS
Will Drews, IN

Purpose: Gather resolutions throughout the year and submit all standing and proposed resolutions to the CCHIS members prior to the annual business meeting.

Website Committee

CHAIR: Tim Boyle, WI (CCHIS Website Manager)
Eric Biddinger, IN
Amy Kennedy, MI
Braden Hoch, KS

Purpose: Monitor, maintain and regularly update CCHIS.org

Constitutional Committee

CHAIR: Zach Starr, MO
Jeff Lounsbery, SD; Eze Pojmann-Ezeonyilo, MO
Erin Lepski, KS; John Mortenson, ND
Matt Hoffman, MN

Purpose: Consider constitutional changes discussed at the 2025 HIS business meeting; propose amendments.

Committee Corner

What's new with Central HIS Committees?

Manual Committee

The Manual Committee is currently in the process of reviewing and updating each article in the HIS-CC Inspector's Manual—and we need your help! These reviews ensure that the manual remains an accurate and helpful resource for the chapter. Reach out to the committee chair, Rachel (rachel.wilkins@ks.gov), for more information on how to get involved in the review process.

For Reference: Check inbox for February 6 Email "HISCC Inspector's Manual – Volunteers Needed"

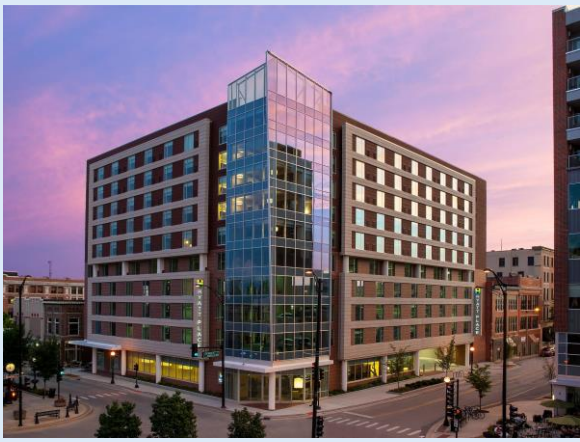
Membership & Equity Committee

See membership flyer on page 15

Multi-state Inspection Committee

A group inspection involving all the central states was not feasible this year, but a productive joint inspection between Missouri and Kansas was completed. The plan is still to have a multi-state inspection in 2027. Plans for inspections in future years can be discussed at the annual conference.

HIS Central Chapter Annual Conference 2026 October 19-22 Champaign, IL



- Events, tentative agenda, and details on registration and booking can be found through the registration link.
- **Register here**
- Hotel Group Rate ($110/night) Deadline is Monday, September 21
- Registration Deadline is Wednesday, September 23
- Hotel: Hyatt Place Champaign/Urbana, 217 N Neil St, Champaign, IL 61820
- **Hotel Reservations here**

Reservation instructions:

- At the top of the webpage, within the banner, select the word “Special Rate” and make sure you change your Check-in and Check-out dates accordingly (group/special rate code should indicate “G-HIS6").
- Select the type of room [either King Bed (with sofa bed) or King Suite depending on availability] and select “Book”.
- Enter your Contact and Payment Information. Make sure to review the booking summary. Once reviewed and ready to book, select “Book My Stay” at the bottom of the page.

Questions can be sent to VP Andrew Mathis (andrew.b.mathis@illinois.gov)

National Plant Board Meeting
A Central HIS Perspective

We at Central HIS take great pride in our annual conference, seeing that it is the largest gathering of our members during the year and is all-around an enjoyable, productive, and quality event. This year, however, several of our members seized a unique and historical opportunity to attend a national meeting!

The 100th Anniversary Meeting of the National Plant Board was held in Alexandria, Virginia, this past July. While this centennial was already a momentous occasion for the State Plant Regulatory Officials (SPROs) and State Plant Health Directors (SPHDs), it was also a special week for us. The conference featured the 1st official in-person meeting of all 4 HIS chapters, with 19 states represented. Central state attendees included Susan Ehlenbeck (MO), Courtney Fulks (OH), John Mortenson (ND), Amber Neils (MI).

Breakout topics included presentations from SANC and American Hort, a discussion of Japanese Beetle requirements, and considerations for a future virtual meeting of all 4 chapters. Every state got to share something, which helped give attendees a better idea of each state's department structure and plant health priorities.

The "slow the spread" program for Spongy Moth is working, with an 87% reduction in the spread rate (19.6 km to 2.6 km). Unfortunately, there was a catch: funding for this program is in jeopardy and there are calls for letters of support.

Plenty of time was spent on the Two Spotted Leafhopper. This insect is an emerging threat on Cotton, Okra, Sunflower, and Eggplant. It can go through 11 generations per year and is rapidly spreading in the South. Another host it prefers is Hibiscus, which presents an opportunity for horticultural inspectors to track its spread and curtail new entries.

Invasive Insect: Two-Spotted Cotton Leafhopper

The Yellow-legged hornet has been causing trouble in South Carolina after spreading from Georgia. Inspectors, contractors, and the public have had to work together to find and remove the nests of these honeybee-attacking pests.

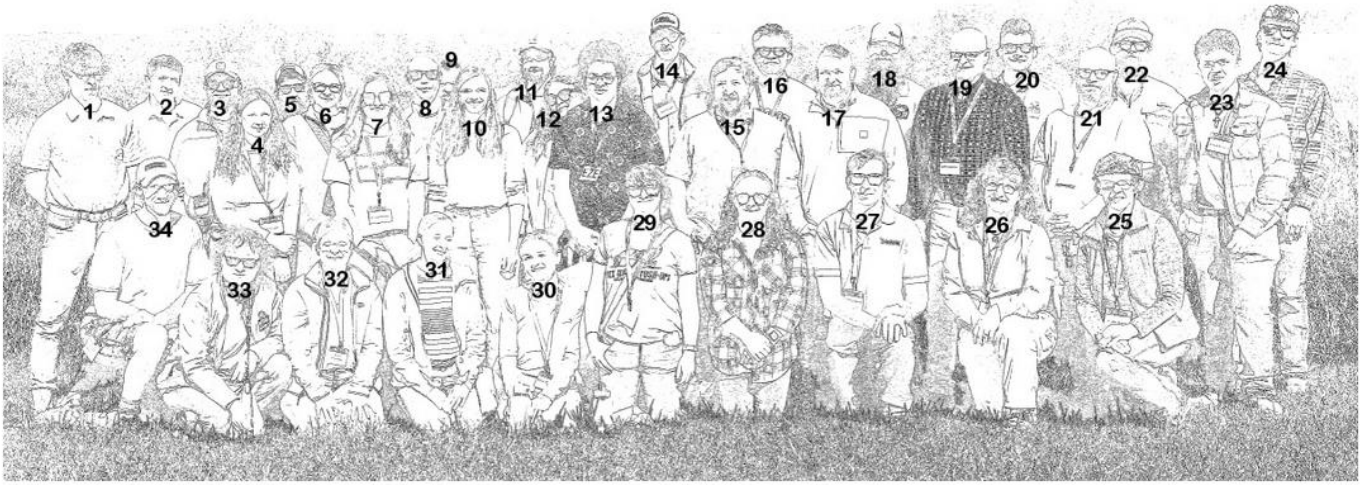
Other pests receiving shout-outs included Asian Longhorned Beetle, Pasture Mealybug, Cotton Seed bug, European Cherry Fruit Fly, and, of course, Spotted Lanternfly.

The chance for inspectors from across the nation to meet was invaluable. Attendees found it helpful to identify and clarify slight differences in technical language between regions. Despite all the pest and disease challenges we face, we handle them better when working as a network. We look forward to more opportunities like this in the future.

HIS Attendees at the 2026 National Plant Board Meeting in Alexandria, VA

HIS Central Chapter Annual Conference Attendees

October 20th – 23rd 2025 in Manhattan, Kansas



1 Braden Hoch, KS
2 Michael Hill, OH
3 Andrew Mathis, IL
4 Ali Wright, IL
5 Ben Quisenberry, MO
6 Catherine Smith, MO
7 Rachel Wilkins, KS
8 Matt Hoffman, MN
9 Andrew Gorsuch, IL
10 Brittany Olson, MN
11 Joe Fujan, IL
12 Mandy Tizon, MO
13 Eze Pojmann-Ezeonyilo, MO
14 Tim Stumpf, IL
15 Zach Starr, MO
16 John Larsen, MN
17 Ty Schaef, KS
18 John Mortenson, ND
19 Jeff Lounsbery, SD
20 Matthew Cullen, MO
21 Jeremy Maples, KS
22 Will Drews, IN
23 Robert Johnson, KS
24 Lee Connner, MO
25 Cathy Ward, IL
26 Susan Ehlenbeck, MO
27 Thomas Jepsen, MI
28 Erin Lepski, KS
29 Dani Sackett, MN
30 Kelsey Ziebarth, MN
31 Liz Meils, WI
32 Rachel Bienemann, OH
33 Yuhong Li, MO
34 Tim Boyle, WI

HIS Central Chapter States Social Media Links & Newsletters

Illinois

- Illinois Department of Agriculture Website
- LinkedIn
- Facebook
- X

Indiana

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources Website
- LinkedIn
- X
- Instagram
- YouTube

Iowa

- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Website
- Facebook
- Instagram
- YouTube
- X

Kansas

- Kansas Department of Agriculture Website
- LinkedIn
- Facebook
- X
- YouTube

Michigan

- Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Website
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Minnesota

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Missouri

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Nebraska

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North Dakota

- North Dakota Department of Agriculture Website
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Ohio

- Ohio Department of Agriculture Website
- Facebook
- X
- YouTube
- LinkedIn

South Dakota

- South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Facebook
- X
- Instagram
- LinkedIn

Wisconsin

- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Website
- Facebook
- YouTube
- X
- Instagram
- What's Growing On? Newsletter
- Field Notes Newsletter
- Apiary Program Newsletter

BECOME A MEMBER

You're Invited!

The Horticulture Inspection Society Central Chapter would like to welcome you to the industry and invite you to join our organization!

We are a cooperative organization of inspectors in the Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Our members are field inspectors, plant pathologists, and entomologists. As an organization, we create partnerships across state lines to help protect industry and the environment from plant pests and diseases. Our group is one of four HIS chapters in the US that works to develop best practice inspection methods and protocols to maintain high standards of vigilance in phytosanitation.

Why Join?

Our chapter strives to promote high standards of plant inspection, to provide networking and professional development opportunities to inspectors, and to help inspector knowledge diffuse across state lines. By joining Central Chapter, you can help further this mission. Yearly dues contribute directly to the work of the Central Chapter in a myriad of ways.

How to Join?

Membership costs $20 a year. See the next page or visit the membership page of the HIS Central Chapter website to apply today!

Membership Benefits

- Attend annual meetings, workshops, webinars, and interstate inspections for continuing education and training in nursery inspection work.
- Network with inspectors from other states.
- Receive the official CC HIS Newsletter.
- Promote high standards of inspection work and share knowledge.
- Utilize the *Central States Nursery Inspector's Guide* and contribute to updates.
- Participate in a forum for regulatory issues.

Have questions? Reach out to the Central Chapter membership committee!

Eze Pojmann-Ezeonyilo (MO)	Eze.Pojmann@mda.mo.gov	(573) 291-0276
Amy Kennedy (MI)	KennedyA6@michigan.gov	(517) 282-2046
Dani Sackett (MN)	Danielle.Sackett@state.mn.us	(651) 443-2480
Liz Meils (WI)	Elizaeth.meils@wisconsin.gov	(608) 516-7617

his Central Chapter

HORTICULTURAL INSPECTION SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

-Return no later than December 10 of each year-

(Please Print)

NAME: _____ POSITION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

DATE: _____

AREA OF INTEREST: _____

(OPTIONAL: Example - aphids, scale insects, biological control, plant pathology, horticulture, etc.)

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one): ◯ Regular ◯ Subscribing

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Check here if you wish to have a receipt emailed to you: ☐

Please return this form no later than December 10th of each year along with $20.00 for each regular, or subscribing membership (see definition below).
Submit one form for each member in order to collect contact information.

(Make checks payable to HIS Central Chapter)

Mail to: DATCP - Liz Meils (HIS Treasurer)
2811 Agriculture Dr., Madison, WI 53718

Email: elizabeth.meils@wi.gov

MEMBERSHIP

Anyone who meets the qualifications as specified in the Horticultural Inspection Society, Central Chapter constitution is eligible for regular membership in the Society, subject to payment of annual dues. The membership year begins with the annual meeting (typically held in October each year). Regular members will receive the Horticultural Inspection Society, Central Chapter Newsletter, and should contribute to the Newsletter frequently. Regular members should also attend Horticultural Inspection Society, Central Chapter meetings

EXCERPTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION

"The regular membership of this organization shall be limited to state employees engaged in plant pest inspection work as inspectors or as supervisors, in field, laboratory, or office, other than administrative personnel. Honorary membership may be awarded to administrators or to others, who by their experience and achievements and interest are worthy of this distinction."

"Members from outside the Central Plant Board region shall be welcome to attend and participate in discussions of this organization chapter. Administrative personnel in plant pest control work are welcome to attend and participate in discussions as special guests of this organization."

Subscribers: This chapter has established the category of "Subscribers" to enable friends of the society, such as previously employed inspectors, inspectors from outside the Central Plant Board region, researchers and similar persons to be affiliated with, to receive and contribute to the newsletter, and to attend meetings.

Plant Pest & Disease Symptoms

abiotic
anthracnose
bacterial
blight
boring
brooms
buckrub
bunt
canker
chewing
chlorosis
crinkles
crooks
cupping
curling
decay
deficiency
dehydration
discoloration
distortion
eggmass
epidemiology
exudate
frass
frogeye
fungal
gall
genetics
gummosis
halos
herbicide
holes
honeydew
infection
insects
leafspot
lesion
microbes
mildew
mold
mosaic
mottling
mycelia
necrosis
needledrop
nematodes
ooze
parasites
pathogenesis
pathogens
pathology
phytopthora
phytotoxicity
residue
ringspot
rootrot
rust
scarring
sclerotinia
scorch
septoria
shothole
smut
stippling
stunting
stylet
swelling
vectors
virus
webbing
wilt
winterburn
wound
yellowing