

## Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) E-News

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our first issue of the PVPO E-News. This electronic newsletter will provide you with news about the PVPO team, helpful PVP tips, and other information about what we do and how we can help you. We welcome your suggestions on topics for future newsletters as well as ideas on how we can improve our service. Please feel free to contact the PVPO at (202) 720-1128 or (202) 720-1066; or by email at [pvpomail@ams.usda.gov](mailto:pvpomail@ams.usda.gov) if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

In this first issue we provide a tour of the PVPO website - what each section does and how to get the most out of our website.

## PVPO Website Tour ([www.ams.usda.gov/PVPO](http://www.ams.usda.gov/PVPO))

The screenshot shows the USDA Plant Variety Protection website. The header includes the USDA logo and navigation links. The main content area is titled "Plant Variety Protection" and features a large image of a cornfield. Below the image, there is a section titled "Plant Variety Protection" with text explaining the office's role in protecting intellectual property for plant breeders. To the right, there are sections for "News & Announcements", "Events", and "Recent Blogs". At the bottom, there is a green bar with the text "AVAILABLE SERVICES".

The PVPO Website provides an abundance of information. Start by clicking on the link above to take you to the Plant Variety Protection main page. From this page use the left menu links to take you to the following sections:

**Program Requirements** – describes the basic PVP requirements

**How to Apply** – gives guidance on what forms need to be completed and filed with the PVP Office, fees to be paid, and where/how to file

**Forms** – provides forms (pdf) for filing a new PVP application, crop specific forms, and forms for paying by credit card, ownership change and depositing seeds

**Services and Fees** – describes the PVP fee for each service

**Questions and Answers** – provides answers to frequently asked questions

**PVP Board** – provides information on

the PVP Office's advisory board – including its purpose and charter, minutes of past meetings and information on becoming a Board member

**Issued Certificates** – provides lists of certificates issued by date since 2012. Also provides links to download any issued PVP certificate and to sign up for the PVPO listserv subscription which provides updates on certificates issued and other important news

**Application Status** – provides a link to the **monthly PVP Application Status Report (pdf)** including variety name, owner, office action status (pending, issued, abandoned, etc.), certificate seed option, certificate issuance date, and certificate expiration date. There is also a link to sign up for the PVPO listserv subscription

The Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) provides intellectual property protection to breeders of new varieties of seeds and tubers. Implementing the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA), we examine new applications and grant certificates that protect varieties for 20 years (25 years for vines and trees). Our certificates are recognized worldwide and allow faster filing of foreign PVP applications. Certificate owners have exclusive rights to market and sell their varieties, manage the use of their varieties by other breeders, and enjoy legal protection of their work. Our services create an incentive for the development of new and improved varieties. New varieties, better suited for climate change and pest/disease control, promote agriculture production and food security for an increasing world population.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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