

## NRCS & IPM Working Group Priorities

### 1. Education Priorities:

- a. Increase the number of IPM-qualified Technical Service Providers (TSPs) through outreach and training programs.
- b. Establish ongoing educational opportunities for NRCS staff on IPM.
  - Create and deliver brochure including IPM basics and examples of IPM practices.
  - Collaborate with NRCS on training sessions for EQIP 595 IPM standard and IPM Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs).
  - Participate in NRCS conference calls for state agronomists, resource conservationists etc.
  - Develop hour-long/half-day/full day training modules and/or presentations for state NRCS to utilize at meetings over the course of the year.
  - Publish articles in trade and professional media read by NRCS.
- c. Education for growers regarding NRCS programs, qualifications, requirements and proper scouting procedures to meet requirements.
- d. Establish ongoing education opportunities for IPM specialists on NRCS conservation programs and policies.
  - Collaborate with IPM specialists on training sessions for 595 and IPM CAPs.
  - Conduct presentations at professional meetings attended by IPM specialists.
  - Publish articles in trade and professional media read by IPM specialists.
- e. Maintain and expand working group website as a vehicle for information on NRCS conservation programs.
  - Broaden scope of information and resources to include all regions.

### 2. Research Priorities:

- a. Measure/evaluate sustainability of practice adoption once cost-shares go away; practice adoption vs. permanent installation.
- b. Track number and type of users, and geographic region of users for PRiME (Pesticide Risk Mitigation Engine); conduct regular surveys to evaluate impacts of PRiME use including, mitigation strategies employed, transition to alternative pesticide options etc.
- c. Increase participation of field crop experts in the working group.
- d. Compile number of 595 IPM standard and CAPs contracts by crop and state. Comparative analysis by state and year; why did numbers increase or decrease? What worked to increase grower participation?

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### **3. Program/Policy Priorities:**

- a. Evaluate opportunities to improve resource protection from impacts of pest management activities in the next farm bill.
- b. Educate NRCS policy/program decision makers on a national level about IPM.
- c. Participate in evaluation of TSP and CAPs programs.
- d. Increase participation of IPM and NRCS representation from Northeastern, Southern and Western regions in working group efforts.
- e. Increase information about IPM in NRCS' technical notes for the brush management and invasive species standards.