

## NRCS and IPM Working Group Conference Call Notes from January 8, 2009

Workgroup URL - <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/work-group/home.htm>

Workgroup listserv: [EQIP@LIST.MSU.EDU](mailto:EQIP@LIST.MSU.EDU)

Corrections/additions to Amrita Batra at [abatra@ipminstitute.org](mailto:abatra@ipminstitute.org)

**Next Call: Friday, February 5, 9:00 Central/10:00 Eastern.**

**Participating (7):** Tom Green (IPM Institute), Peter Werts (IPM Institute), Regina Hirsch (UW), Mark Stewart (Un of MO), Deana Knuteson (UW), Joe Bagdon (NRCS), Bill Kuenstler (NRCS).

### **Attachments:**

1. NRCS and IPM Working Group Priorities (2006)

### **Agenda:**

#### **1. Minnesota EQIP initiative for orchard 595 IPM:**

- i. Peter Werts (IPM Institute) presented the working group's Minnesota EQIP initiative at the Minnesota Apple Growers Association's (MAGA) annual meeting and trade show.
- ii. A meeting has been scheduled for growers, working group members, University of MN Extension, MN NRCS and the MN Dept of Ag to discuss technical and cost-share assistance through the EQIP 595 IPM Standard for apple growers. The meeting will take place at the Minnesota NRCS headquarters on Wednesday, February 17, 2010.

#### **2. Review of working group priorities:**

- i. Our working group priorities were developed primarily by IPM specialists, with limited NRCS input in 2006. They outline our research, education and regulatory priorities for the North Central IPM Center.
- ii. We should update these priorities to reflect stakeholder needs.
- iii. *Suggestions for new working group priorities:*
  - a. Maintain list of 595 IPM and CAPs contracts by crop and state. Currently, this data is not easily accessible. Keeping with our goal to expand our working group to a national scale, this list should reflect figures for all states.
    1. The working group should devise a system to track this data.
  - b. Track users, reduced-risk pesticide use and survey users of PRiME (Pesticide Risk Mitigation Engine) over three to five years as a research priority.
  - c. Participate in NRCS conference calls in North Central and other regions to discuss IPM and EQIP 595 IPM Standard. For e.g., Peter Werts will present the

North Central fruit and field crop IPM evaluation tools on the January 12, 2010, Central State Resources Conservationists conference call.

- d. Increase communication with Southeast and Western regions:
  - 1. Southeast region contact: [Gene Hardee](#), conservation agronomist, NRCS.
  - 2. Northeast region contact: [Anthony Burns](#), national technical specialist.
  - 3. Western region contact: [Giulio Ferruzzi](#), agronomist, West National Technology Support Center
- e. Publish working group efforts in trade publications and media. Proposed articles:
  - 1. Conservation Professional, Journal of Soil and Water Conservation: Article by Regina Hirsch and Michelle Miller on EQIP 595 IPM Standard in Wisconsin.
  - 2. Mini-grants to Indiana, Ohio and Iowa: Outcomes and future plans.
- f. Develop IPM elements and guidelines that support the EQIP brush management and invasive species standards and technical notes.
- iv. A draft set of priorities will be circulated via listserv for working group to vote on their top five priorities.
- v. Updated priorities should be submitted to North Central IPM Center newsletter.

**3. Pesticide Risk Mitigation Engine (PRiME) launch and upcoming newsletter:**

- i. PRiME is a web-based, user-friendly pesticide evaluation tool that calculates site-specific risks associated with agricultural pesticide applications.
- ii. PRiME's beta version will be launched in February 2010 and will include products for tomatoes, potatoes, apples and winegrapes.
- iii. Please email [Amrita Batra](#) to receive PRiME's quarterly newsletter.
- iv. PRiME and NRCS:
  - a. NRCS will review PRiME and provide comments.
  - b. PRiME is valuable to NRCS; targets NRCS policy and goals.
  - c. PRiME is an opportunity to incorporate risk into IPM analysis.
- v. The pesticide industry is interested in learning more about PRiME's risk calculations.