

NRCS and IPM Working Group - Conference call notes from Friday, April 4, 2008

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

Workgroup listserv: EQIP@LIST.MSU.EDU

Corrections/additions to Tom Green, ipmworks@ipminstitute.org

NEXT CALL: Friday, May 2, 9 Central, 10 Eastern.

YOUR HELP NEEDED: Please review the following:

- Using EQIP to implement IPM and related practices on your farm: A guide for growers and their consultants at <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/work-group/how-to.htm> and send any additional practices (see sidebar on that page) and success stories to Joy Landis, landisj@msu.edu. Success stories should be described from the grower perspective if possible.
- State-specific EQIP information at <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/work-group/resources.htm> and send any updates on your state to Joy, landisj@msu.edu.

Participating: Joe Bagdon, Anastasia Becker, Mike Brewer, Tom Green, Regina Hirsch, Jim Jasinski, Joy Landis, Michelle Miller, Brett Roberts, Barb Stewart, Bob Wright

- Transitions: Anastasia Becker, Missouri Dept. of Ag, is replacing Judy Grundler who has been moved up in the Department.
- National Task Force Update Bob Nowierski has taken on the CSREES lead. The NRCS interim lead is Ronald Alvarado. Conversations are continuing in a small group, larger group is not in the loop at this point.

There will be proceedings produced by the group that presented a symposium, On-the-ground experiences: California, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina at the Entomological Society of America in December. That group includes Ben Smallwood from NRCS, Ed Rajotte and Dave Biddinger from Penn State, Larry Elworth from Center for Ag Partnerships, Jonathan Kaplan from NRDC, Pete Goodell from University of California, and Mark Parsons from California NRCS. The proceedings will be submitted to American Entomologist.

The California work includes a streamlined, web-based version of WinPST that focuses on water quality impacts. Pesticide ratings are included along with recommendations for mitigation strategies. See <http://www.pw.ucr.edu/>. Soil impacts are not currently included. Development continues.

- Website update. The new page Using EQIP to implement IPM and related practices on your farm: A guide for growers and their consultants is designed for growers and their consultants and addresses what is EQIP, why apply, evaluate your interest, list of practices, links to specifics by state and success stories.

Broad outreach is needed to get the word out about this page. **Mike Brewer** will send a note to the national task force members that he has contact info for, the American Entomologist group and the IPM Coordinators list for our region. **Tom Green** will send hard copies with a cover letter to the NRCS state conservationists and the EQIP program contact in each of our states.

- The generic vegetable IPM checklist has been reviewed by Jim Jasinski. Comments include revising IPM goal statement to address risk reduction, segregate commercial products in references and add disclaimer, revise practices to include more detail, beef up the educational aspects around IPM benefits to conservation. Jim, Mike Brewer and Tom Green will discuss on Monday, April 7 and revise. Next draft to be sent to the group for final comments and then used as a template to create the generic fruit and field crop versions. Crop-specific versions can be built using those as models.
- Iowa, Nebraska and Ohio have expressed interest in accessing workgroup funds and people resources to take next steps in those states. **Any additional interested states should contact Tom Green as soon as possible.** Mike Brewer will pursue Indiana and Tom Green will follow up with Missouri. **Mike and Tom** will work with at least one state to finalize a plan of action to review on our next call and use as a template for additional states. Grower involvement will be critical to persuade NRCS and technical committees of the merit.
- Mike Brewer will circulate and post to the website a white paper from the North Central Region IPM Coordinating Committee (Extension directors, Experiment Station directors).

Next call, Friday, May 2, 9 Central. Future call topics to include NRCS and IPM collaboration in California including a web-based version of WinPST; Cooperative Ecosystem Services Units as vehicles for collaboration.