

## **NRCS and IPM Working Group Conference Call Notes from August 7, 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, September 4, 9:00 Central/10:00 Eastern.

**Participating (10):** Lynnae Jess (NC Pest Management Center), Lea Woodard (IPM Institute), Amrita Batra (IPM Institute), Peter Werts (IPM Institute), Bill Kuenstler (NRCS), Seth Dibblee (EPA Region V) Joy Landis (MSU), Anastasia Becker (MO Dept of Ag), Renee Hancock (NRCS) and Michael Brewer (MSU).

### **Attachments:**

1. Maine vegetable IPM macro-enabled tool
2. Fruit IPM generic tool for North Central region
3. Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) National Working Group work plan
4. Pesticide Risk Mitigation Engine (PRiME) flyer

### **Agenda:**

1. **Fruit, Vegetable and Crop IPM tools for North Central Region:**
  - i. The working group has adapted Kathy Murray's Northeastern vegetable IPM tool to create a generic fruit IPM tool (which serves as a basic check list with resources) for the North Central region. The vegetable and crop IPM tools are yet to be adapted.
  - ii. Should we continue to adapt the IPM tools as basic checklists or develop web-based macro-enabled tools?
  - iii. Working group feedback:
    1. An IPM checklist for on-site evaluations may be more useful than a macro-enabled IPM tool.
    2. A macro-enabled tool could be more difficult for local NRCS staff to modify.
    3. The level of IPM programming differs greatly from state to state; states with more evolved IPM elements could utilize those in conjunction with the tools. This link would also help states with less developed IPM resources.
    4. For field crops such as soybean and corn, it would be beneficial to develop additional details to the generic IPM tool.

5. We should create a self assessment form as part of the tools. This would help set a bench mark to evaluate a grower's existing IPM practices vs. additional practices he could incorporate.

## 2. **Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) update:**

- i. NRCS has created a new pilot program for "Conservation Activity Plans" (CAPs), available during the 2009 growing season. The pilot allows each state to choose one or more (up to eight) of 11 types of plans that they will help fund on a local level, including IPM, forestry, organics and others (see <http://techreg.usda.gov/RptActivityPlans.aspx> for full list).
- ii. The IPM Institute has coordinated an IPM CAP National Working Group consisting of members from state and federal level NRCS, IPM State Coordinators, IPM Centers, Extension, EPA, and crop consulting organizations to work towards maximizing this opportunity for IPM (Visit [Working Group website](#)).
- iii. The IPM Institute has been awarded two mini-grants, \$8,000 from the Northeastern IPM Center and \$10,000 from the North Central IPM Center to implement the national working group work plan and offer training for Technical Service Providers (TSPs).
- iv. As per the 2008 Farm Bill, NRCS is able to fund training events for NRCS-related programs.
- v. The IPM CAP Working Group has subdivided into smaller subcommittees to work towards each of the objectives in the work plan.
- vi. Upcoming agenda items for the CAPs working group include identifying cooperative Extension involvement in writing and/or facilitating IPM CAP training and cost share rate development.
- vii. To join the IPM CAP National Working Group and/or recommend changes to the website, contact [Lea Woodard](#).

## 3. **Pesticide Risk Mitigation Engine (PRiME) update:**

- i. The IPM Institute with project partners: Oregon State University, Pesticide Research Institute, BCS Ecologic, Environmental Canada and others, is developing a web-based pesticide evaluation tool for US agriculture (Visit [PRiME](#) website).
- ii. PRiME's tree fruit pilot is in the final stage of development and we will begin testing the tool with grower groups and food industry in fall 2009.

- iii. Following the online launch of the tree fruit pilot in fall 2009, the project team will present the tool at various conferences and grower workshops across the country.
  - iv. For recommendations to test and present the tool, contact [Amrita Batra](#).
4. **Updates from states for working group website:**
- i. Joy Landis (MSU) encouraged working group members to review their information in the '[State Resources](#)' section of our website.
  - ii. Please email state updates to [Joy Landis](#).
5. **2009 mini-grants update:**
- i. There are funds available to give mini-grants to two of the following states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, North Dakota and South Dakota, to support new partnerships between IPM professionals and NRCS staff to increase EQIP and IPM participation.
  - ii. Amrita will contact the above states to determine their interest.
  - iii. To learn more about the mini-grant program, review [mini-grant summaries](#) of 2008 or contact [Amrita Batra](#).