

NRCS and IPM Working Group – Conference Call Notes from July 3, 2008

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

Workgroup listserv: EQIP@LIST.MSU.EDU

Corrections/additions to Brenna Wanous at bwanous@ipminstitute.org

Next Call: August 1, 9:00 Central/10:00 Eastern.

Participating: Anastasia Becker (MO Dept. of Ag), Mike Brewer (MSU IPM), Rick Foster (Purdue University, IN), Tom Green (IPM Institute, WI), Regina Hirsch (UW-Madison Entomology), Joy Landis (MSU IPM), Michelle Miller (UW-Madison CIAS), Carol Pilcher (MO), Barb Stewart (IA NRCS), Brenna Wanous (IPM Institute, WI)

1. Mini-grants Update:

- a. We have \$15,000 to spend on mini-grants by the end of July, and can also use the grant renewal funds for next year to fund additional mini-grants if interest is there.
- b. Indiana is accepting one of the mini-grants; project is spearheaded by Rick Foster and supported by Tony Bailey (IN NRCS). Rick identified objectives to accomplish with the funds, including:
 - i. Hosting a growers' meeting in the fall/winter – this meeting would refine what the growers want out of the process, identify priority practices and incentives and the costs associated with them.
 - ii. Hosting a technical meeting with NRCS and the grower representatives to work out logistics and details.
 - iii. Regina and Mike encouraged that the growers plan an integral part in deciding what practices will be most supported and how much they will cost. A policy is only worthwhile if the growers see a real benefit from it.
- c. Ohio is further pursuing the mini-grant, led by Jim Jasinski (OSU). Will have a phone conversation working out the details of the program this afternoon. Problem lies in lack of contacts in NRCS. Brenna will work on identifying those contacts.
- d. Iowa is in limbo: Carol is working on contacting Jerry DeWitt (Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture) with little luck thus far; will continue trying through next week (July 11). Suspects the flooding is one reason why, as well as the difficulty he may be experiencing finding a project lead.
 - i. Suggestions from the working group: Rich Pirog (IA State University?), Laura ? (NE Iowa), Mark Gleason (IA State University).
 - ii. Mike pointed out that EQIP has allocated transition funds to organic, which might perk the ears of field crop oriented departments.
- e. Missouri may be interested in pursuing the mini-grant. Anastasia will consider it more this week and contact Brenna if she decides to move forward.
- f. North Dakota initially showed interest in mini-grant, but since then has decided to wait until next year at least; they've been invited to the working group's phone calls. Nebraska also

declined the grant based on level of priorities. Minnesota is interested but will not have time to implement the activities this year; next year sounds more promising.

2. Website Update

- a.** All of the states' 2008 EQIP practices and incentives are compiled and ready to post on the website if there are no edits the working group would like to make. Please contact Joy with changes or suggestions.
 - i.** Brenna will send out a letter to all of the state NRCS conservation offices to brief them on the project and website and ask for additional information. Also in the letter will be an invitation to join the working group's phone calls.
- b.** Seven brief success stories were either compiled or drafted by Brenna, edited by Tom and Mike. Joy posted those on the website: homepage's Items of Interest box and it About EQIP section.
- c.** The template for building IPM and NRCS collaborations is also posted on the website: homepage's Items of Interest box and in resources section.

3. IPM vegetables checklist

- a.** Kathy Murray (NE IPM working group) had previously sent out the latest version of the vege IPM planning tool; Tom resent. The latest version automates the pest management plan to make it easier for growers and adaptable for other regions.
- b.** We'll be working on developing the fruit and field crop templates this month so the working group can review and make edits for next call.

Next call: Friday, August 1; same time.

Potential topics include briefing from Pete Goodell (University of CA IPM program) about what's going on with IPM in California, compare/contrast conversation between Pete and Kathy Murray's projects