

## NRCS and IPM Working Group – Conference Call Notes from June 6, 2008

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 Brenna Wanous at [bwanous@ipminstitute.org](mailto:bwanous@ipminstitute.org)

**Next Call:** July 3, 9:00 Central/10:00 Eastern. NOTE: Due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, the July conference call will be held on *Thursday*, July 3.

**Participating:** Tony Bailey, Mike Brewer, Sharon Dobesh, Regina Hirsch, Bill Kuenstler, Michelle Miller, Kathy Murray, Carol Pilcher, Barb Stewart, Brenna Wanous,

### 1. IPM training

- Held a two-day IPM training for conservation professionals, part inside, part in field. The goals of the training were to expose the NRCS personnel to the growers, especially on a local level; to educate the NRCS conservationists on orchard management so they can better help growers interested in or currently participating in the EQIP program; to increase growers' access to the EQIP program.
- Created extensive training materials, to be used as a reference resource in the future (i.e. specific information on particular crop pest, state contact, etc.). Could be very useful as an online tool – perhaps we could think about whether it'd be in the budget, or whether it'd be worth writing a grant to do so (*Will think about and update for next time*)

### 2. National update

- Goal was to encourage collaboration on state levels; talk of improving access for underserved growers (i.e. minority growers)
- Mike Hubbs new director of Ecological Services
- Brief updates. NRCS, new Farm Bill, an new emphasis on specialty crops; CSREES, several grant programs now here specific language to encourage proposals with a University/NRCS collaboration component; University, updates on state specific University/NRCS collaborations were given for Penn, Mich., and Wisc.
- C. Heffner (head of CSREES) is ready to sign off on draft of a join letter from NRCS and CSREES, which encourages collaboration between NRCS and state universities

### 3. Website update

- Joy has some new information, which Tony can take a look at for Indiana
- Encouraged additional input from NRCS people on the call (please take a look at the state specific information on the workgroup website, contact Joy for updates, additions)
- Brenna is working on contacting state NRCS contacts to fill in missing information

### 4. IPM vegetables checklist

- Kathy: in the Northeast region, working on comprehensive online tool for vegetable growers. Tabs include info (provided by Tom G), practices (breaks down into four more specific practices; examples and recommendations included for each), and resources (links).
- New addition is the protected resources tab, which is in the works

- Other project is the job-sheet. Growers are able to fill out a checklist (for example, conduct a field border pesticide application) to generate an IPM implementation plan. Really great tool, hope to have a fully functional draft out by mid-July for use.
  - Kathy will send out a draft of the job-sheet
5. Mini-grants: \$5,000 for state programs
- Need to take the collaboration between NRCS and the state/university/growers to the next level. To help facilitate that the workgroup budget can support state-specific work, up to \$5,000 per state in the North Central region to organize and see through programs and trainings like the WI apples training (see 1<sup>st</sup> topic). Comes in reimbursement form.
  - Interested states should contact Tom G about acquiring funds. See handout from the meeting as a general guide to types of collaborations.
6. Tony Bailey – update in IN
- Meeting between Perdue, NRCS and state people, goal is to work on increasing specialty crop growers' access to EQIP program.
  - Identified training needs; look for practices and tools to integrate into program; questioned current incentives (are they sufficient to convince growers to change practices?)

Next call

Thursday, July 3; 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