

NRCS and IPM Working Group - Conference call notes from Friday, May 2, 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, June 6, 9 Central, 10 Eastern.

Participating: Tony Bailey, Anastasia Becker, Mike Brewer, Tom Green, Joy Landis, Michelle Miller, Kathy Murray, Brett Roberts, Barb Stewart, Bob Wright

- National Task Force Update At Mike Brewers request, Ben Smallwood has organized a meeting in DC for May 6 to include Bob Nowierski and Marty Draper from CSREES, and NRCS Deputy Director Bill Pucket and NY NRCS State Conservationist Ron Alvarado who is an interim appointment filling Diane Gilberts former position for 90 days.

Agenda will include a briefing by Mike Brewer on examples of formal and informal collaborations between NRCS and university/Extension IPM in CT, MI, WI and other states, including our working group and draft plan for increasing collaboration in our regions states. Marty Draper will address changes in CSREES RFPs that reference priorities for greater collaboration with NRCS. Bob Nowierski will brief on an IPM distance education program being developed that will target Federal agency staff.

- IPM Institute staff will review our working group websites state-specific pages, identify where additional info is needed and pursue contacts in those states to fill in the blanks.
- Michelle Miller and Tom Green will work on several brief, grower-focused success stories for our website that illustrate the benefits to growers and resource protection from collaborations between NRCS and IPM in Wisconsin. Other success stories are welcome from inside and outside of our region. One goal is to encourage growers to participate in EQIP by example.
- A generic Vege IPM Planning Tool (attached) initially developed in Michigan and expanded by the Northeast Vegetable IPM Working group has undergone extensive revision based on detailed feedback from Joe Bagdon, Jim Jasinski and Mike Brewer. The goal of the tool is to facilitate pest management plan development. Maine is taking their tool to another level including use of macros to allow growers and advisors to automatically generate an IPM plan by selecting practices listed in the tool. Kathy Murray and Tom Green will get together with Joe Bagdon to review what Maine is working on to see if we should jump to that type of format from our region. The tool template could be used in any region with crop and region-specific information filled in. Tony Bailey has a planning tool developed in Ohio that he will share with us. Tom will get back with Tony, Brett and Barb to review the proposed Maine tool and get input on what would be most useful for NRCS in our region.

- A draft template plan of action (attached) for making progress on greater collaboration in other states has been drafted by Mike Brewer and Tom Green. This template can be used by states in our region that want to pursue up to \$5000 in resources to take action. OH, IA, NE and MO have expressed interest. MN may also be interested. Tom Green is following up with Jeanne Ciborowski in MN about potential interest; Robin Martinek may be an NRCS contact to start with in MN. Depending on the number of states interested, we may be able to provide more than the \$5000 limit for time, travel, meeting expenses, phone, etc. We have up to \$20,000 for this activity that must be committed by end of July and want to put it where there is a solid commitment and plan.
- **Next call, June 6, 9 AM Central.** Pete Goodell with University California IPM Program has been invited to join us and is recruiting CA NRCS partners to brief us on collaborations in that state.