

NRCS and IPM Working Group Conference Call Notes from September 4, 2009

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

Workgroup listserv: EQIP@LIST.MSU.EDU

Corrections/additions to Amrita Batra at abatra@ipminstitute.org

Next Call: Friday, October 2, 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 Kuentler (NRCS), Bill Wiebold (MU), Joy Landis (MSU), Regina Hirsch (UW), Tom Green (IPM Institute), David Epstein (MSU).

Attachments:

1. North Central field crop IPM tool draft.

Agenda:

1. North Central fruit, vegetable and field crop IPM tool:

- i. Peter Werts, IPM Institute, has developed North Central fruit and field crop IPM tool drafts. He is currently working to:

1. Edit the tools' resource lists.
2. Integrate a scoring system for the tools.
3. Evaluate and finalize the tools' IPM Plan Guide sheet.
4. Incorporate IPM elements for the fruit IPM tool.

- ii. Next steps:

1. Continue development of North Central vegetable IPM tool draft.
2. Distribute North Central fruit, vegetable and field crop IPM tools for review by IPM specialists; incorporate feedback to finalize the tools.
 - a. Lynnae Jess will distribute the field crop IPM tool draft to IPM coordinators in the North Central region for review. Brian Jenson (UW) and Michigan State University IPM specialists are other potential reviewers.
3. Conduct outreach to maximize awareness about IPM tools.

2. Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) update:

- i. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is one of 12 Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) options available to farmers under a new program from USDA NRCS through the 2008 Farm Bill. CAPs are detailed, specialized plans created by private-sector, NRCS-

certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs), designed to improve resource management around specific concerns on farms.

- 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 working group is currently creating guidance documents for Extension, conservation districts and other conservation professionals on how to contribute towards writing or offering training for IPM CAPs. The group is also developing a draft guidance document for interested parties to influence cost share rates and adoption of the IPM CAP program in their state.
- iv. The working group has submitted an article on IPM CAPs for the North Central IPM newsletter. A second article has been written by the president of the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants for their newsletter.
- v. To recommend newsletters to submit articles on IPM CAPs and/or join the IPM CAP National Working Group, contact [Lea Woodard](#).

3. Updates from states for working group website:

- i. Working group members are encouraged to email updated information for the '[State Resources](#)' section of our website to [Joy Landis](#).
- ii. Amrita will contact working group members for updated information.

4. 2009 mini-grants update:

- i. There are funds available to distribute mini-grants to two North Central states that have not previously received funding for a mini-grant program. Mini-grants will be used to support new partnerships between IPM professionals and NRCS staff to increase EQIP and IPM participation.
- ii. North Dakota, Missouri and Minnesota Extension have expressed an interest in the mini-grant program this year.
- iii. We expect to confirm one mini-grant by the end of September.
- iv. To learn more about the mini-grant program, review [mini-grant summaries](#) of 2008 or contact [Amrita Batra](#).