

## **NRCS and IPM Working Group - Conference call notes from Friday, Dec. 7, 2007**

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](mailto:ipmworks@ipminstitute.org)

**NEXT CALL:** Friday, Jan 4, 9 Central, 10 Eastern. Ana LeGrand, IPM Coordinator, University of Connecticut has agreed to talk about the unique "contribution agreement" collaboration between U of CT Extension and NRCS that is briefly described in the NRDC report "More IPM Please."

**\*SAVE THE DATE, MARCH WORKING GROUP MEETING:**  
Tuesday-Wednesday, March 11-12, location TBA.

Participating: Joe Bagdon, Mike Brewer, Sharon Dobesh, Paul Duffner, Tom Green, Bill Kuenstler, Joy Landis, Kathy Murray, Carol Pilcher, Steve Plotkin, Brett Roberts, Bob Wright

Follow up:

Kathy Murray - Set up conf call with Ruth, Tom, Joe, Bob Nowierski to brief Bob on the NE and NC working group efforts re NRCS and IPM.

Mike Brewer - Lead effort to upgrade website content, recruit a couple of participants to join a conference call to look at the current PDF on steps to access EQIP for IPM, begin upgrades. Joy to post content.

Tom Green - Lead effort to customize Vegetable IPM Tool from NE Vege Working Group; contact Jim Jasinski re involvement from NC Vege IPM Working Group, revise for discussion on next call. Set location for March 11-12 meeting.

Notes:

1. Proposal for renewal funding has been submitted, should hear in the next month or two. Objective will be to replicate successes in MI and WI re EQIP support for IPM.
2. CSREES IPM and NRCS met this week with Bob Nowierski leading the CSREES side. Mike Brewer had a brief conversation with Bob about the history of the task force. Mike and Joe will work on making sure that prior progress is not lost with this renewal under Bob's leadership. Diane Gilbert, who was the lead on the NRCS is transitioning to other responsibilities.
3. We set a goal of creating three generic checklists (fruit, vegetable,

field crops) that can provide templates for crop/region-specific checklists and for Pest Management Plans. These are only a first step and will be especially helpful as we build a more complete library of crop-specific checklists. Planners and NRCS need crop and region-specific practices, and some idea of practice costs as well. E.g., the generic checklist includes monitoring as a tactic; the crop specific checklist might specify the details of the monitoring technique for a specific pest in that crop. Crop/region-specific checklists should not be so rigid that they do not allow flexibility, e.g., thresholds will vary depending on crop price and input cost.

4. The NE Vegetable IPM Tool is being expanded to include references for Extension guidelines from NY, PA and other NE region states. The tool is can be found at (<http://www.ipm.msu.edu/work-group/pdf/12-7VegIPMTool3.pdf>) along with a crop/region-specific tool for sweet corn (<http://www.ipm.msu.edu/work-group/pdf/12-7sweetcorn.pdf>), with ties to SWAPA.

5. In Maine, IPM incentive rates under EQIP have increased \$25 to \$158 per acre for vegetable crops, and to \$40 per acre for field crops. This compares to \$30 and \$7 per acre in Michigan, respectively. An MSU economist indicates Michigan rates could double to more accurately reflect actual costs/incentives required to increase adoption.

6. Transitions: Odie Swanegan is retiring in January. Paul Duffner from MO NRCS will represent MO NRCS going forward. Marcia McMullen, ND Extension, has moved off the working group.