

## NRCS and IPM Working Group - Conference call notes from Friday, Nov. 2, 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, Dec. 7, 9 Central, 10 Eastern

Participating: Mike Brewer, Steve Brinkman (for Barb Stewart), Andrea Buchholz (for Joy Landis), Lyle Frees, Regina Hirsch, Bryan Jensen, Bill Kuenstler, Michelle Miller, Pat Murphy, Kathy Murray, Carol Pilcher, Jeff St. Ores, Benjamin Smallwood

### Followup:

Tom Green and Mike Brewer to draft proposal for renewal funding to NC IPM Center to achieve successful NRCS/IPM partnerships in additional states, using Michigan and Wisconsin as models, and applying the tools we will develop this winter (see below).

### Notes:

1. Northeast Region IPM Working Group ([www.northeastipm.org/nrcs.cfm](http://www.northeastipm.org/nrcs.cfm)) update, Kathy Murray reporting. The group organized IPM workshops at NRCS Technical Conferences in '05 and '06 which were not well attended; farm tours for NRCS and others in '06 and on-farm conservation IPM workshops in MA, ME and RI in 2007 had better participation. The group has also taken a generic IPM practice checklist provided by Mike Brewer and adapted it for vegetables in the Northeast (view <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/work-group/pdf/VegIPMTool.pdf>); and created a sweet corn checklist that ties IPM practices to Soil, Water, Air, Plant, Animal (SWAPA) resource concerns (view <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/workgroup/pdf/sweetcornguidelines.pdf>). Uses include identifying IPM practices available for the cropping system/region; grower self-assessment; and/or qualifying growers for incentives. Addendum: These checklists were also discussed with NRCS staff on a November 25 conference call. Comments: These could be expanded to assemble a Pest Management Plan outline from the practices selected by the planner/farmer; more detail is needed to explain the practices (see [http://www.ipm.msu.edu/work-group/pdf/IPM\\_Scouting\\_Guide\\_DRAFT-07-201.pdf](http://www.ipm.msu.edu/work-group/pdf/IPM_Scouting_Guide_DRAFT-07-201.pdf) as an example); NRCS staff and planners need training on how to use these tools; more guides like the sweet corn scouting guide are needed for other crops.

Comments: WI also has checklists for apples, cherries and potatoes. Generic checklists can be helpful as a starting point, especially if they make the connection to SWAPA for each practice. Crop/region-specific also needed. Consultant working with farmers can add specifics when creating Pest Management Plans.

2. Proposed tasks for winter '07-'08 using existing resources were discussed and agreed upon:
  - a. We will upgrade the website re how to succeed with EQIP. We will take the PDF document from Michigan (<http://www.ipm.msu.edu/work-group/pdf/Guide-generic.pdf>) that includes steps for specialty crop producers and update, expand and reformat this information so that it is useful and novice-friendly for all states in the region and for field crops. Links will be added to state incentive rates for IPM practices with information on how to pursue increases in incentives for IPM. We'll also add examples of crop/region-specific Pest Management Plans built from the generic IPM practice checklists developed in "B" below. Approximate budget, \$8000.
  - b. We will develop three sets of "generic" IPM checklists: one for fruit, one for vegetables and one for field crops, identifying IPM tactics for each cropping system and to be used by growers to document their current and planned practices for NRCS review and potential incorporation in a pest management plan. We will link each practice to resource concerns (soil, water, air, etc.) so that NRCS professionals can identify which impacts are mitigated by the practice. We will develop these draft documents in committee over the winter, review at a working group meeting in late winter, and finalize by April 30. Approximate budget, \$20,000 including development meeting(s), March working group meeting.
  - c. Mike Brewer will continue representation for our region – including a leadership coordinating role - in the national task force. This task force of national NRCS and IPM leaders and regional representatives has met in person and by conference call over the past year. Support will continue the momentum that has been created to develop greater understanding, collaboration and opportunities for IPM in NRCS programs. Approximate budget, \$5000 for conference calls and time and travel to two meetings.
3. Goals for a renewal funding (\$30,000 for one year) were reviewed and agreed upon; proposal was developed and submitted by Tom Green and Mike Brewer:
  - a. Make funds available to replicate successes in Michigan and Wisconsin to new states in our region. Other states will be invited to negotiate a statement of work and budget (up to \$5000) with the working group to expand opportunities in their states. Reimbursable expenses could include working group member and grower representative travel/time to meet with

state NRCS contacts and attend state technical committee meetings to pursue access, increase incentive rates, etc.

4. Agenda items for future calls: Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESUs) and Contribution Agreements as mechanisms for cooperation between agencies, including NRCS and CSREES. Tom Green to identify, recruit presenters.
  
5. Mike Brewer is co-organizing a session at the Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting in San Diego on Dec. 11 on NRCS and IPM. Jonathan Kaplan from NRDC is participating.