

## **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](mailto:EQIP@LIST.MSU.EDU)

Corrections/additions to Amrita Batra at [abatra@ipminstitute.org](mailto:abatra@ipminstitute.org)

**Next Call:** Friday, November 6, 9:00 Central/10:00 Eastern.

**Participating (15):** Joy Landis (MSU), Bill Wiebold (MU), Regina Hirsch (UW), Deana Knutson (UW), Tom Green (IPM Institute), Amrita Batra (IPM Institute), Peter Werts (IPM Institute), Brenna Wanous (IPM Institute) Bill Kuenstler (NRCS), Renee Hancock (NRCS), Paul Duffner (NRCS), Anastasia Becker (MO Dept of Ag), Joe Bagdon (NRCS), Michelle Miller (UW), Barbara Stewart (NRCS). (Apologies if anyone is missed on the roll call.)

### **Attachments:**

1. New/enhanced EQIP 595 Integrated Pest Management standard (draft).
2. Field crop IPM tool for North Central region (draft).
3. Fruit IPM tool for North Central region (draft).

### **Agenda:**

1. **Co-leadership of NRCS & IPM WG/Mike Brewer's transition:**
  - i. Working group co-leader, Mike Brewer has taken a new position in field crop research entomology at University of Texas A & M.
  - ii. Tom Green suggested that the working group nominate a new co-leader who would lead the working group with him.
  - iii. Please email your nominations to Tom at [ipmworks@ipminstitute.org](mailto:ipmworks@ipminstitute.org).
2. **Planning renewal grant application for NRCS & IPM WG:**
  - i. Our working group's Request for Funding Application (RFA) is due to the North Central IPM Center by December 15, 2009.
  - ii. Suggestions for our working group's RFA proposal:
    1. Expand our working group to incorporate other regions, making it a national working group.
    2. Expand our working group to include the national IPM CAPs project.
    3. Provide IPM training for NRCS staff. Such training has been conducted successfully by the vegetable working group in the North East and programs in Michigan and Wisconsin.

4. Please email additional suggestions to Tom at [ipmworks@ipminstitute.org](mailto:ipmworks@ipminstitute.org).

**3. IPM Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) update:**

- i. IPM CAPs National working group consists of over 70 individuals divided between the major working group and three sub-committees (Financial Assistance, Extension Involvement and Training Curriculum). Working group members include those from NRCS, Universities, Extension Services, National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants, Certified Crop Advisors and more.
- ii. CAPs identify whole-farm conservation opportunities. There are 12 types of CAPs, including IPM; NRCS State Conservationists select which CAPs will be available in their state for the coming Fiscal year. Only four states (CA, ME, RI, WV) chose IPM last year.
- iii. The CAPs National working group is developing:
  1. Guidance documents for “IPM CAPs Preparation” and “Successful IPM CAPs Adoption in Your State”.
  2. An outreach plan for increasing awareness of the opportunity among State Conservationists, Technical Service Provider (TSP) Coordinators, EQIP Program Managers, current and prospective TSPs and growers.
  3. A hands-on curriculum for training current and prospective TSPs to become IPM CAPs-certified and able to write plans.
- iv. Dollars available for CAPs is greater than the dollars available for the EQIP 595 plans. CAP cost share rates are determined by State Conservationists depending upon the market cost for putting together a plan in the state.
- v. Challenges for IPM CAPs adoption:
  1. General shortage of TSPs,
  2. higher certification standards for current and prospective TSPs,
  3. heavy paperwork loads,
  4. shortage of resources to increase State Conservationists’ confidence in the predicted success of IPM CAPs,
  5. concern that CAPs will eventually become a pre-requisite for – and barrier toward – applying for NRCS conservation practice implementation funding (e.g., EQIP 595).

- vi. Please visit the CAPs National [Working Group website](http://www.ipminstitute.org/IPMCAPs/) (<http://www.ipminstitute.org/IPMCAPs/>) for further information.

**4. New/updated EQIP 595 Integrated Pest Management standard:**

- i. The new 595 Integrated Pest Management standard was published in the Federal Register for formal public comment in September, 2009.
- ii. Working group members were encouraged to review previous drafts and provide comments to their state NRCS office.
- iii. Updates to the standard include:
  - 1. A link to the IPM Centers' websites,
  - 2. IPM Elements and Guidelines,
  - 3. 'Job Sheet', including a table outlining IPM activities and mitigation benefits for which growers will receive credits.
- iv. The new 595 standard is specific to IPM. NRCS is looking to apply IPM through the 595 standard to address environmental risk.
- v. The new standard's direct environmental benefits improve the chances for State Technical Committees to give the standard more consideration.

**5. Update on North Central IPM tools review process:**

- i. Eight working group members are currently reviewing the fruit and field IPM tools being developed by our working group.
- ii. A final draft of the tools is expected to be ready by next month.
- iii. Bill Kuenstler will review the field crop IPM tool.
- iv. Please contact [Peter Werts](#) if you would like to review the North Central IPM tools.

**6. Update on tracking the number of EQIP 595 Standard contracts in North Central states:**

- i. We are in the process of compiling the number of EQIP 595 standard contracts in individual North Central states.
- ii. NRCS does not divide the contracts by crop or crop category.
- iii. Access to reports for the number of contracts divided by crop, crop category, organic or specialty crops would be helpful to better understand these numbers.
- iv. Due to time restrictions, NRCS is unlikely to encourage their field officers to compile the aggregate numbers required for the above reports.

**7. Update on 2008 mini-grants reports:**

- i. We have received the final report from our 2008 mini-grantees: Ohio, Iowa and Indiana.
- ii. Final reports are available in the [‘About Us’](#) section of our working group website.

**8. Update on 2009 mini-grant:**

- i. This year our working group will distribute a mini-grant to the University of Missouri.
- ii. Bill Wiebold (MU) is leading discussions with MO NRCS to develop a work plan for the mini-grant program.
- iii. Objectives identified for the work plan so far include:
  - 1. A meeting between MU IPM faculty and NRCS staff has been scheduled for December 3, 2009.
  - 2. IPM training for NRCS staff in 2010.