

NRCS and IPM Working Group – Conference Call Notes from November 7, 2008

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

Workgroup listserv: EQIP@LIST.MSU.EDU

Corrections/additions to Brenna Wanous at bwanous@ipminstitute.org

Next Call: December 5, 9:00 Central/10:00 Eastern.

Participating: Tony Bailey (IN NRCS), Anastasia Becker (MO Dept of Ag), Mike Brewer (MSU), Andrea Buchholz (MSU), Judy Derricks (WI NRCS), Tom Green (IPM Institute, WI), Erin Harpenau (ISU), Ruth Hazzard (MA Extension), Regina Hirsch (UW-Madison), Jim Jasinski (OSU) Janet Knodel (NDSU), Joy Landis (MSU), John Lundvall (ISU), Michelle Miller (UW-Madison) Kathy Murray (Maine Dept. of Ag.), John Obermeyer (Purdue, IN), Benjamin Smallwood (National NRCS), Barb Stewart (IA NRCS), Brenna Wanous (IPM Institute, WI)

Updates on Mini-Grant work:

1. Ohio (Jim Jasinski and Regina Hirsch reporting)
 - a. Held a meeting between NRCS and OSU agriculture specialists and Extension on October 20th, 2008 in Columbus ([agenda and participant list attached](#)).
 - b. First half of meeting focused on introductions, briefings on EQIP and to OSU agriculture programs and services.
 - i. Found it important to introduce OSU faculty to the EQIP program, especially as an avenue for grower adoption of IPM; it was also important to show NRCS how IPM and crop specialists are valuable resources for improving their pest management standard.
 - ii. Discovered that NRCS already uses the OSU Extension website as a resource for their pest management work, as the site offers IPM guidelines and checklists for many specialty crops.
 - c. Second half of meeting focused on enhancing the Ohio EQIP pest management practices and incentives.
 - i. The IPM/crop specialists developed four crop scenarios for this program: general vegetables, small fruits (for now only strawberries), sweet corn and tree fruits (including apples, cherries, peaches, pears and plums).
 - ii. The group went through OSU's specialty crop guidelines, identified what IPM components are necessary for each crop and researched real costs associated with those practices. Components include scouting, traps, pheromones, nozzles, weather monitoring equipment and software, etc.
 - iii. Based on these prices, the group made recommendations for next year's EQIP pest management incentive costs for each of the four scenarios. Jim and Angel Arehart (EQIP program specialist) were able to submit these costs for consideration for FY09.

- iv. Growers will use the OSU Extension's website to complete a self-assessment; using the guidelines and checklists for each crop, they can identify where they are currently at in terms of IPM implementation. Using this as a baseline, growers enrolled in the EQIP program will need to make at least a 10% improvement each year of their contract. At the end of the third year, growers must achieve IPM implementation of at least 60% or their baseline+30%, whichever is lower.
 - d. Challenges still need to address:
 - i. Identify who will be writing the IPM plans for growers that receive EQIP contracts.
 - 1. NRCS does not feel comfortable based on their level of training, so may need to find independent consultants that can write the plans for them.
 - 2. Alternatively, offering the NRCS personnel working with EQIP training on specialty crops and pest management may be a good way of keeping the process under the same roof.
- 2. Indiana (John Obermeyer reporting for Rick Foster)
 - a. Will hold their first informational meeting for NRCS, IPM specialists and specialty crop grower representatives on December 5th, 2008 in Indianapolis.
 - i. Tony Bailey will give an introduction to EQIP;
 - ii. Mike Brewer will give a briefing on Michigan's success with EQIP's pest management standard;
 - iii. Attendees will break into small groups to brainstorm ideas for addressing grower's needs regarding pest management, and what costs are associated with them;
 - iv. Rick and John are looking to include these modifications and additions to the pest management standard in the FY09 EQIP incentives.
- 3. Iowa (John Lundvall reporting for Jerry DeWitt)
 - a. Also working on organizing their initial meeting between NRCS and IPM specialists.
 - b. This mini-grant project focuses more on field crops (i.e. corn, soybeans and alfalfa) rather than specialty crops.
 - i. However, IA is working to include additional EQIP incentives for orchard, specialty crops and invasive species in the 2009 program; NRCS is using ISU's guidelines as a way to develop and justify these practice incentives.
- 4. Website work: Brenna to come up with 5-8 sentences on each mini-grant to summarize the goals and activities of the projects. These will be posted on the working group's website, and linked to the Journal of Extension.