

NRCS & IPM Working Group Monthly Teleconference

Friday, May 2nd, 10:00 Eastern, 9:00 Central; duration up to one hour.

Participants: Glen Luedke, NAICC; Mallory Fournier, Michigan State University; Bob Nowierski, NIFA; Lynnae Jess, North Central IPM Center; Dana Larsen, National NRCS; Pat Matteson, California Department of Pesticide Regulation; Kathy Murray, Maine Department of Agriculture; Barb Stewart, Iowa NRCS; Ben Smallwood, National NRCS and Katherine Mumm, IPM Institute of North America

Comments and revisions to Katherine Mumm, kmumm@ipminstitute.org

Attachments

1. Additional agenda items?

2. REAP data

- A data request has been submitted to the Resource Economics, Analysis and Policy Division (REAP). Eric Barnes, REAP indicated the office will follow up regarding the request. REAP is experiencing a large workload and is currently understaffed so a delay in receiving data (beyond the end of May) should be anticipated.
- The REAP data request is an effort to collect all pertinent information currently available about the adoption of Integrated Pest Management through NRCS programs. The purpose of this request is to garner data to inform key stakeholders and compare participation over recent years. The specific questions we are trying to answer include:
What states/ counties are adopting IPM in the greatest amount? What areas have had the least adoption of IPM? What is the adoption of IPM amongst conventional crops vs. specialty crops? Participation from the Working Group will be fundamental once data is received to analyze and present the findings in a report.

2. Nutrient Management Training in Ohio

- The IPM institute held a training in Ohio with NRCS and Ohio State Extension for CCAs, to qualify them as Technical Service Providers (TSPs) for nutrient management planning. This training opportunity was a success, with great turnout, it resulted in more than 24 new TSPs being certified.
- A big driver for the training was pending legislation in Ohio to require nutrient management plans. The training was funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Overall the project focused on reducing phosphorus loading into Lake Erie from crop land in the basin.
- There is potential to host a training similar to what was done for nutrient management for IPM next year if this activity is included in our renewal proposal to the IPM centers. Tim Pilkowski and Dana Larsen among others at NRCS worked to develop this training approach and their support along with Ohio State Extension was much appreciated.
- Dana Larsen noted that it can be a challenge to get buy in at the State level. Tim Pilkowski was very helpful in explaining the approach and benefits and getting them on board.
- Tim's role at NRCS has changed, he will no-longer be working with Technical Service Providers and will be unable to participate in activities of the workgroup. We thank Tim for all of his past support and hope Dana Larsen will be able to participate in the group moving forward.

3. IPM Symposium

- The 8th International IPM Symposium, IPM: Solutions for a Changing World will be held March 23-26th in Salt Lake City, Utah. Symposium sessions will be divided into tracks based on commodity or settings and will address various aspects of IPM across disciplines, internationally, in the market place, urban settings, greenhouses and etc.
- Proposals for sessions were due April 25, 2014 however the steering committee for the International IPM Symposium has decided to extend the deadline for session proposals indefinitely. However as they review plans already submitted those will be considered first and slots will fill up quickly.
- Sessions will be organized in one hour time blocks. Organizers may submit sessions that take more than one hour but must allow for a fifteen minute break after each hour.
- Juliana Wilson, tree fruit IPM outreach specialist in Entomology at Michigan State University and member of the Great Lakes Fruit Workers group has presented our group the opportunity to collaborate on a submitted proposal.
- Title: Invasive species as drivers of dynamic IPM programs
With each new pest invasion we hear about the "death" of IPM. Is this doom and gloom scenario hysterical hyperbole? Or is this a real phenomenon? Saying IPM will die because of a new pest suggests that IPM practices are static or that we have reached the pinnacle of IPM with nowhere else to go from here. Most IPM practitioners know intuitively that IPM practices must be dynamic to deal with an ever-changing pest landscape. This is true for the pest populations that are perennial as well as new invasions – perennial pests go through ebbs and flows as do our strategies for monitoring and managing them. Why then the constant death knell for IPM? Perhaps instead of saying "IPM is dead" every time a new pest comes along, we say "IPM must evolve". This mini-symposium will address these ideas using a case study format focused on particular invasions – how they were initially perceived (e.g. by the media, by growers, etc.) and how IPM programs evolved to meet these new challenges. Case studies will center on fruit production, but the conceptual ideas will apply across most, if not all, plant production systems. At the end of the symposium will be a discussion of how we might go about changing the language associated with new invasions and their impact on IPM program education and outreach.
- The number of each session type will be limited, the IPM Symposium planning committee is responsible for reviewing all proposals and will be sending session approval to organizers around August 1, 2014.

4. Crops & Soils

- During this grant period, we have five remaining issues to fulfill our agreement with the trade publication Crops & Soils. The IPM institute is still looking for co-authors to assist on articles. The length of articles is approximately 900 words. Please refer to the March call notes on potential article topics. Also, if there is a topic that is of interest to you and not included on the list please contact Katherine Mumm.
- Pat Matteson will be writing a Crops & Soils article related to the topic IPM & the supply chain. Specifically, detailing agriculture sustainability certification programs.
- Kathy Murray will be working on an article on the topic of "IPM concepts & benefits: Why do we need IPM?" for the June submission.
- It was suggested to contact Joe Lally of the TSP Network out of Iowa to collaborate on an article that would provide a spotlight on becoming a TSP. It was advised that they may be able to provide an opportunity to pick up the voice of TSP's in general.

6. WIN-PST Training

- The Conservation Professional Training Program is actively compiling materials for the WIN-PST course. They have begun preparing the course blue print and are working on developing scenarios to be used by course participants. Multiple planning scenarios including row crop production, specialty crop production and pesticide usage on Conservation Reserve Program land will be a major component of the course.
- They are in discussion with NRCS to approve the practice of having course participants reach out to their area agronomist for review of a final project.

7. Working group priorities

- Instead of having members of the Working Group vote on the priorities that the group established in 2011, the IPM Institute staff will be conducting a review to revise our selection process and bring the priorities up to date with our 2014 objectives. If members from the group would like to voice input on additions or revision to the groups priorities please contact Katherine Mumm. The revised list will be provided to members for the June call.

Next call: Friday, June 6th, 10:00 Eastern, 9:00 Central; duration up to one hour.