New England Pest Management Network
IPM Planning and Assessment Documents
(Surveys – Profiles – Strategic Plans)
Progress Report - December 12, 2006

A. GRANT DATA

Titles:
2004, 2005, and 2006 New England Pest Management Network

Grant #: 2815-UM-USDA-2103

Type: Surveys, Crop Profiles, and PMSPs (Pest Management Strategic Plans). In 2007, the name for this project fund was changed to IPM Planning and Assessment Documents (IPM-Docs).

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Team Members:

University of Connecticut (UConn) – Candace Bartholomew, Pesticide Coordinator.

University of Massachusetts (UMass) – Natalia Clifton, Pesticide Education Program Specialist; Dr. Pat Vittum, Associate Professor of Entomology; Sonia Schloemann, Dept. of Entomology.

University of New Hampshire (UNH) – Dr. Alan Eaton, Statewide IPM Coordinator; William Lord, Extension Professor.

University of Rhode Island (URI) – Margaret Siligato, Pesticide Applicator Training Program Coordinator; Dr. Steve Alm, Professor of Entomology.

University of Vermont (UVM) – Ann Hazelrigg, Pesticide Education and Safety Program Coordinator, Plant Diagnostic Clinic Director; Sarah Kingsley-Richards, Plant and Soil Science Department Assistant.

States Involved: Maine (lead state), Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Funding Years: 2004, 2005, 2006.

Funding Amounts:

2004

University of Maine

$ 6,615 for UMaine indirect on subcontracts to MA, NH, RI, VT.

$6,615 - Total ME IPM-Docs funding 2004.

University of Connecticut $0

University of Massachusetts

$ 2,430 for strawberry IPM survey data entry and analysis.
$ 3,531 for sweet corn IPM survey salary, fringe, incidental expenses.
$ 6,189 for sweet corn IPM survey printing and postage.
$ 2,430 for sweet corn IPM survey data entry and analysis.
$ 3,420 for UMass indirect.

$18,000 - Total MA IPM-Docs funding 2004.

University of New Hampshire

$ 3,531 for strawberry IPM survey salary, fringe, incidental expenses.
$ 3,700 for strawberry IPM survey printing and postage.
$ 1,696 for UNH indirect.

$ 8,927 - Total NH IPM-Docs funding 2004.

University of Rhode Island

$ 3,791 for peas-beans-carrots pest management strategic plans salary, fringe, materials and supplies, telephone and postage.
$ 3,499 for peas-beans-carrots pest management strategic plans meeting expenses.
$ 1,710 for URI indirect.
$ 9,000 - Total RI IPM-Docs funding 2004.

University of Vermont

$ 3,000 for highbush blueberry pest management profile.
$ 447 for UVM indirect.
$ 3,447 - Total VT IPM-Docs funding 2004.

2005

University of Maine

$ 244 for UMaine indirect on subcontract to CT.
(UMaine indirect charges are limited to the first $25,000 per state in cumulative funding over life of the project, which is 2004-2007 for the New England Pest Management Network. Except for CT, the subcontractor states had each reached the $25,000 cap with the 2004 project budget.)
$ 244 - Total ME IPM-Docs funding 2005.

University of Connecticut

$ 3,686 for pepper IPM survey salary, fringe, incidental expenses.
$ 2,369 for pepper IPM survey printing and postage.
$ 1,420 for UConn indirect.
$ 7,475 - Total CT IPM-Docs funding 2005.

University of Massachusetts

$ 4,308 for school IPM survey salary, fringe, incidental expenses.
$ 3,750 for school IPM survey printing and postage.
$ 2,200 for school IPM survey data entry and analysis.
$ 2,200 for pepper IPM survey data entry and analysis.
$ 3,572 for strawberry pest management profile.
$ 3,760 for UMass indirect.
$19,790 - Total MA IPM-Docs funding 2005.

MA – Not shown is $46,963 of funds attached to the New England Pest Management Network contract for Ruth Hazzard to conduct vegetable IPM projects for the Northeastern IPM Center.

University of New Hampshire $0
University of Rhode Island $0

University of Vermont
$ 2,750 for highbush blueberry pest management strategic plan salary, fringe, incidental expenses.
$ 3,500 for highbush blueberry pest management strategic plan meeting expenses.
$ 894 for UVM indirect.
$ 7,144 - Total VT IPM-Docs funding 2005.

2006

University of Maine
$ 2,951 salary and fringe for supervision and contract management for survey, profile, and PMSP activity.
$ 738 for UMaine indirect.
$ 3,689 - Total ME IPM-Docs funding 2006.

University of Connecticut
$ 4,844 for pepper pest management profile.
$ 1,211 for UConn indirect.
$ 6,055 - Total CT IPM-Docs funding 2006.

University of Massachusetts
$ 4,154 for raspberry IPM survey salary, fringe, incidental expenses.
$ 3,339 for raspberry IPM survey data entry and analysis.
$ 3,888 for raspberry IPM survey printing and postage.
$ 2,845 for UMass indirect.
$14,226 MA IPM-Docs funding 2006

University of New Hampshire $0

University of Rhode Island $0

University of Vermont
$ 4,400 for strawberry pest management strategic plan salary, fringe, incidental expenses.
$ 3,500 for strawberry pest management strategic plan meeting expenses.
$ 1,130 – UVM indirect.
$ 9,030 - Total VT IPM-Docs funding 2006.

B. NONTECHNICAL SUMMARY

The New England Pest Management Network (NEPMNet) is a coordinated effort among the Land Grant universities of the six New England states to promote the use of IPM and to improve communication about pest management topics important in New England. NEPMNet is funded as three program areas:

1) The State Network Project portion works as a liaison between stakeholders, experts, and regulatory agencies. The project website (PRONewEngland.org) improves public access to research-based pest management information.

2) The IPM Planning and Assessment Documents portion conducts pest management tactic surveys, and creates crop profiles and strategic plans to document New England pest management practices and needs.

3) The IPM Working Group Priorities portion developed and published daily pest forecasts to aid in IPM monitoring and treatment decisions in 2004-2005.

This progress report covers the IPM Planning and Assessment Documents portion (IPM-Docs).

Crop production is an important part of the New England economy, both directly and indirectly as the foundation for maintaining rural landscapes that define New England's quality of life. But on the national scale, New England is a minor production region for most commodities. As a result, the needs of New England producers can be overlooked in national regulatory decisions. By conducting statistically valid surveys, creating crop profiles, and organizing pest management strategic plan meetings and documents, NEPMNet represents the needs of New England farmers to federal regulators. These documents are also useful to direct, measure, and justify pest management research and Extension programs.

Pests in school buildings and grounds create sanitation risks, athletic hazards, and detract from an effective and aesthetically pleasing learning environment. However, use of pesticides on school buildings and grounds also causes risks. Four of the six New England states now have state regulations and/or school IPM programs. A simple three-state school IPM survey was conducted in 2000. A new survey is being conducted in 2007 to include all six New England states, expand the number of school IPM issues addressed, conduct the survey in a statistically valid manner, and to provide follow-up for the 2000 survey to measure impact of subsequent school IPM education efforts.

C. APPROACH

NEPMNet approaches pest management surveys, profiles, and strategic plans not as individual reports, but as three steps in a sequence. The first step is a statistically valid survey to accurately measure current practices. We have developed standardized procedures based on the Dillman method for creating survey questions and for targeting mailings (Dillman, 2000; Koehler, 2006a). These methods have generated high return rates from survey recipients and assurance that the aggregate responses accurately represent pest management practices in New England.

The second step in the sequence is to combine survey responses with Extension management guidelines and other reference materials to create a profile that describes the pest threats, management options, and current practices. The third step is a pest management strategic plan (PMSP). To create the strategic plan, we gather a group of experts to review the survey results and the crop profile; discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the different management options; prioritize regulatory, research and education needs; and consider contingency plans for potential new pest threats, regulatory restrictions, or market changes. As with the surveys, we have developed templates for profiles and strategic plans (Koehler, 2006a, 2006b). The templates can be copied to minimize the time required to set up a new document. The guidelines and checklists included with the templates specify what content is required and help in organizing the work.

D. OBJECTIVES and RESULTS

1. Highbush Blueberry Pest Management Profile (Ann Hazelrigg, Sarah Kingsley-Richards, UVM).

– Completed, posted online at http://pronewengland.org/INFO/PROInfoProfile.htm.

– Submitted to Northeastern IPM Center for inclusion in national profile database.

2. Highbush Blueberry Pest Management Strategic Plan (Ann Hazelrigg, Sarah Kingsley-Richards, UVM).

– Meeting held, document completed, posted online at http://pronewengland.org/INFO/PROInfoPMSP.htm.

– Submitted to Northeastern IPM Center for inclusion in national strategic plan database.

3. Peas-Beans-Carrots Pest Management Strategic Plan (Margaret Siligato (URI))
– Meeting held, draft document under revision. Completion expected by January 19, 2006.

4. Pepper Pest Management Tactics Survey (Candace Bartholomew, UConn; and Natalia Clifton, UMass).
– Survey questionnaire developed, mailed, responses entered and summarized.
– Summary posted online at http://pronewengland.org/INFO/PROInfoSurvey.htm.

5. Pepper Pest Management Profile (Candace Bartholomew, UConn).
– Scheduled for completion in April 2007.

6. Raspberry Pest Management Tactics Survey (Natalia Clifton, UMass).
– Questionnaire developed and reviewed. Mailings to begin December, 2006.
– Data entry, analysis, and summary completion scheduled for March 1, 2007.

7. School IPM Survey (Natalia Clifton, UMass).
– Survey questionnaire draft to be sent for review December, 2006. Survey mailings begin January 2007. Data entry, analysis, and summary completion scheduled for April 1, 2007.

8. Strawberry Pest Management Tactics Survey (William Lord, UNH; and Natalia Clifton, UMass).
– Survey questionnaire developed, mailed, responses entered and summarized.
– Summary posted online at http://pronewengland.org/INFO/PROInfoSurvey.htm.

9. Strawberry Pest Management Profile (Sonia Schloemann, UMass).
– Completed November, 2006.
– Posted online at http://pronewengland.org/INFO/PROInfoProfile.htm and submitted to Northeastern IPM Center for inclusion in national profile database.

10. Strawberry Pest Management Strategic Plan (Ann Hazelrigg, Sarah Kingsley-Richards, UVM).
– Meeting scheduled for December 18-19, 2006. Document completion scheduled for January 2007, at which time it will be posted online at http://pronewengland.org/INFO/PROInfoPMSP.htm and submitted to Northeastern IPM Center for inclusion in national strategic plan database.

11. Sweet Corn Pest Management Tactics Survey (Natalia Clifton, UMass).
– Survey questionnaire developed, mailed, responses entered and summarized.
– Summary posted online at http://pronewengland.org/INFO/PROInfoSurvey.htm.

12. Winter Squash Pest Management Tactics Survey (Natalia Clifton, UMass).
An unfunded winter squash grower survey was completed in 2004 to supplement the winter squash pest management crop profile and strategic plan completed during the 2001-2003 phase of the New England Pest Management Network.
– Survey questionnaire developed, mailed, responses entered and summarized.
– Summary posted online at http://pronewengland.org/INFO/PROInfoSurvey.htm.

UNEXPECTED EVENTS

Inefficient mailing lists.

The mailing lists sent by each state network project liaison to conduct the sweet corn survey included many people who were either not growing sweet corn, not growing anything, or in some cases, were no longer breathing. Bloated mailing lists also caused inefficiency and additional costs for the strawberry, winter squash and other surveys. To reduce this problem for future surveys we have added mailing list corrections as a new component of the survey process. Mailing list errors discovered in conducting a survey are sent to each state so that they can correct their mailing lists.

Variable content and formatting.

We found that the USDA guidance on content requirements for profiles and strategic plans were not sufficiently detailed; that the lack of formatting conventions also caused problems, and that too much effort was spent in creating each new document "from scratch". This experience led to the templates described under "Approach".

Getting thorough document reviews was also problematic. The templates have been amended to require a review of the draft document from at least one person in each of the six New England states. Responsibility for providing such reviews directly, or through an appropriate delegate, has been added to the list of duties for State Network Project state liaisons. Tracking of author and reviewer performance adds a level of bureaucracy in creating these documents, but it seems necessary to insure accountability, performance, and reliable quality for the finished products.

LITERATURE CITED

Dillman, D.A.; 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method. 2nd Edition;* John Wiley Co., New York.

Koehler, G.W.; 2006a. *Procedures and Template for IPM Tactics surveys.* New England Pest Management Network. http://pronewengland.org/INFO/PROpubs/Survey/Template-Survey.doc.

Koehler, G.W.; 2006b. *Procedures and Template for Pest Management Crop Profiles.* New England Pest Management Network. http://pronewengland.org/INFO/PROpubs/Profile/Template-CropProfile.doc.

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