

Northeastern IPM Center (NEIPMC) Partnership Grants Program 2005 Annual Report for New Jersey's State Network Project

A. Grant Data

- **Grant #:** 2016-RU-USDA-9759
- **Title:** New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies
- **Type:** State Network Project (SNP)
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- **State(s) involved:** New Jersey
- **Funding year:** 2005
- **Funding amount:** \$20,000

B. Summary: The New Jersey SNP links the stakeholders of: our State, regional partners of other States, the NEIPMC, and the federal government on issues related to use and usage of all IPM tactics, including pesticides, in all IPM settings in New Jersey. The New Jersey SNP improves the shared knowledge, awareness, and understanding of pest management practices between local, State, regional, and national stakeholders.

The goals and objectives of our SNP are guided by an Advisory Committee of New Jersey stakeholders representing a diversity of perspectives and technical expertise. This committee includes: growers, crop consultants, pesticide users, public interest and environmental groups, pesticide registrants, and Extension outreach and research. Advisory Committee members use the New Jersey SNP to keep their stakeholders informed of technical guidance in the practice of IPM, changes in regulatory requirements, and time-critical alerts from local, State, or Federal agencies. We also keep them informed of training, conference, and funding opportunities for their stakeholders.

We use different tools (web site, listservs, meetings, training sessions, and teleconferences) to facilitate informed decision-making on pest management practices to make sure that those regulated and the regulators are on the same page. We advise and make available to all stakeholders new resources developed by the NEIPMC, mid-Atlantic partner states, and our SNP. We gather, analyze, and document agricultural and commercial pest management practices in New Jersey, including pesticide use and input from researchers, growers, crop consultants, pesticide users, regulators, and Extension faculty and staff. We produce and publish pesticide use surveys, Crop Profiles, and Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs).

Using a pest-by-pest approach, the plans identify current management practices (chemical and non-chemical) practiced in New Jersey and those under development. This way we document our State stakeholder priorities for key New Jersey commodities for research, regulatory activity, and education needed for transition to IPM.

C. Objectives:

Objective 1: Maintain an advisory committee: The Advisory Committee previously assembled will guide the activities of the NJinPAS.

This objective was successfully accomplished in 2005. The 2005 Advisory Committee was comprised of New Jersey stakeholders representing a diversity of perspectives and technical expertise; see Appendix 1 for a list of members. Our work in 2005 was based upon the recommendations that were made by Advisory Committee during their 2004 annual meeting; this is documented in '2004 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes' (see Appendix 2). Our Advisory Committee met once in 2005 on December 2nd to evaluate our SNP's progress and let us know of any changes in stakeholder needs for 2006.

Objective 2: Liaison between NEIPMC, Land Grant Universities, and Other State Agencies - The New Jersey SNP will coordinate and communicate its activities with State and regional stakeholders.

In 2005, we shared regional resources and information between the NEIPMC and mid-Atlantic SNPs to avoid duplication of effort; see Appendix 3 for a table of the 'NEIPMC and Regional Partners - 2005'. We made more than 32 postings to our regional 'State Partners' listserv to announce and coordinate pesticide surveys, crop profiles, and pest management strategy plans; as well as announce the monthly release of State newsletters like Delaware's 'Pesticide Briefs' and Maryland's 'Pesticide Notes'. Project Directors met in August 2005 to share objectives and procedures, and network for Crop Profile and PMSP collaboration. This allowed us to set up collaboration with Delaware on a regional watermelon PMSP for 2006. Additionally, Northeast IR-4 Coordinator Edith Lurvey did work on the 'PMSP for Carrot for New Jersey' this past year.

We coordinated activities between the outreach and research of Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension (New Jersey's land grant institution); State and regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT), the IR-4 Minor-use Pesticides programs, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Pesticide Control Program. Also, we used the Project website and listservs to keep all of these stakeholders up to date with regulations, training, grants, conferences, and important alerts.

Objective 3: Federal and State Agency Primary Information Source - Links will be established between federal partners and agricultural researchers, extension specialists, and other stakeholders so that information on pest management practices can be made available to federal partners in a timely manner in response to issues raised by FQPA or other regulatory decisions.

This objective was successfully accomplished in 2005. We processed approximately a dozen requests for information to RCRE Extension Specialists from either EPA or USDA regarding pesticides being considered for reregistration. Additionally, our Specialists wrote justifications for the 2005 growing season for Section 18 and 24 (c) pesticide registrations that the NJDEP used to submit to EPA for approval; these are posted online at www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/PesticideRegistration/NJregistrations.htm. In 2005, our website provided Federal agencies making reregistration decisions more than 20 Crop Profiles and PMSPs that have been technically reviewed by our Specialists in entomology, plant pathology, and weed science.

Objective 4: Compliance Advisories and Assistance to Stakeholders - We will continue to deliver expedited concise pesticide regulatory information to researchers, extension educators, growers, crop consultants, pesticide users and other stakeholders in the State.

In 2005, the New Jersey SNP posted to its network of 10 listservs more than 150 pesticide notices, compliance advisories, and requests for comment, including time-critical pesticide and pest alerts. Specifically, we researched, analyzed, and composed detailed summaries to New Jersey stakeholders of technical information and reports (such as reregistration notices announced in the Federal Register). Further, we announced online availability of information or new resources developed under our SNP such as pesticide use surveys, crop profiles, or PMSPs. We also alerted stakeholders to training, conference, and funding opportunities.

Objective 5: Project Web Site – The SNP will maintain a project website.

The home page for the New Jersey SNP is www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/NJinPASindex.htm. The website currently houses more than 50 project web pages plus the over 750 online individual listserv postings in the Online Listserv Posting Archive; see Appendix 5 for the website site map.

The New Jersey SNP website meets 11 of the twelve NEIPMC published standards (*per <http://neipmc.org/statenet/webstandards.cfm>*). Specifically, our website is not 100% compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (*NEIPMC requirement #6*). In December 2003, the Rutgers Web Site Manager tested the New Jersey SNP webpages using WebExact for quality, accessibility, and privacy issues; he advised us that it would be nearly impossible to achieve 100% compliance.

Objective 6: IPM Working Group Facilitation – The New Jersey SNP will facilitate involvement of stakeholders in Working Groups.

The NEIPMC now establishes Working Groups through grant-funded projects that meet previously determined IPM priorities for specific commodities or sites such as urban. Prior to that, the New Jersey SNP nominated and enrolled representatives from New Jersey stakeholders including environmental groups, EPA, growers, and RCRE researchers and outreach staff.

Objective 7: Subcontract Management – The New Jersey SNP will participate in all subcontracts between Northeastern IPM Center and other entities of RCRE in order to minimize total indirect costs for the Center.

In addition to the SNP and Use Surveys/Crop Profiles/PMSPs, other RCRE subcontracts facilitated included the Brown Marmorated Stinkbug special project, and the Crop Profile/PMSP Coordinator position.

D. Results

Advisory Committee

- In 2005, the New Jersey SNP Advisory Committee was comprised of 31 New Jersey stakeholders representing a diversity of perspectives and technical expertise. Specifically, this committee included representatives from agricultural and horticultural industry (22%); Extension (24%); University researchers (18%); environmental and public interest groups (9%); and state and local government (19%).
- For a more detailed list of our members and their affiliation, see Appendix 1 ‘New Jersey SNP Advisory Committee - 2005’.
- The minutes of all Advisory Committee meetings and annual reports since 2001 are posted online at www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/Advisorycommittee.Htm.

Coordination with Other Agencies and Programs

- Project Director George Hamilton, in his role as both state IPM and Pesticide Safety Education Coordinator, routinely communicates with faculty and staff connected with the Blueberry, Nursery, Tree Fruit, and Vegetable IPM programs, faculty in other states and other regional Pesticide Safety Education Programs. This has allowed the transfer of information between growers, staff, Coordinators, and Extension Specialists.
- Statewide coordination of information with a varied group of pest management stakeholders is also facilitated by Project Director George Hamilton through his activities as a member of the New Jersey ‘Governor’s Pesticide Advisory Committee’. This committee advises the Administrator of the NJDEP Pesticide Control Program on pesticide policy. Serving on the committee are representatives from growers, lawn care applicators, structural pest control applicators, pesticide registrants, aerial applicators, pesticide dealers, New Jersey Public Health, and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA).
- The New Jersey SNP has provided NJDA Division of Plant Industry advisories on critical issues such as Asian Long Horned Beetle, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, and SODS to New Jersey stakeholders. For Asian Long Horned Beetle, we have posted weekly alerts with details of the quarantine and eradication programs for New Jersey towns invaded by this invasive pest.
- The New Jersey SNP coordinated regional resources for the NJDA in their preparation of Section 18 emergency exemptions for fungicides for new invasive soybean rust.
- For the Crop Profile for Honey Bees in New Jersey, we set up collaboration between RCRE Apiary Research Associate and the NJDA State Apiarist.

Work Pertaining to Regulatory Issues

- In 2005, we catalogued all non-routine pesticide actions (such as Section 18 Emergency Exemptions, Crisis Exemptions, and Section 24 (c) Special Local Need Registrations, regulation advisories, or requests for comment). We are able to process these quickly due to the cooperation of the NJDEP.
- Each of these pesticide actions is then archived online chronologically, providing the only web-accessible listing of past and current pesticide registrations and exemptions granted for New Jersey.
- We alerted and provided training of stakeholders in the requirements of newly-issued School IPM regulations by the NJDEP (including a certification course of School IPM Coordinators). We prepared and presented a lecture in place of the NJDEP State IPM Coordinator on the new regulations as part of the Coordinator Certification course. In cooperation with NJDEP and the New Jersey Environmental Federation, RCRE prepared and presented a turf IPM lecture for 5 courses certifying several hundred School IPM coordinators by the close of 2005.
- New Jersey pesticide applicators are required by State law to be licensed. In 2005, New Jersey SNP staff presented lectures on State pesticide regulations and requirements to several thousand applicators seeking recertification (while other RCRE staff presented IPM tactics). Additionally, we provided four special trainings in basic regulations that were translated in Spanish.

Website, Newsletters, and Other Stakeholder Outreach

- The New Jersey SNP set up and maintains an email listserv and mailing infrastructure that includes growers, crop consultants, pesticide users, public interest groups, environmental groups, and Extension faculty and staff. In 2005, approximately 400 persons were enrolled in the listservs and of that there were nearly 900 individual listserv enrollments. Listserv membership currently includes the following: Extension: (24%); agriculture and horticultural industry: (22%); State & local government: (19%); University researchers: (18%); environmental & public interest groups: (9%); and regional & national partners (7%).
- The New Jersey SNP created a new listserv for 'Invasives' in 2005 to respond to the need for critical pest alerts in New Jersey. We maintained ten listservs: general (or 'Network'), vegetables, forests and Xmas trees, field and forage crops, fruit, turf-ornamentals-greenhouse-nursery, interiors and institutions, school IPM, invasives, and mosquito.
- There have been a total of approximately 775 postings to the listservs since inception in late 2001. Site statistics for 2005 showed that the New Jersey SNP Listserv Archive had more than 300,000 downloads of listserv postings in just one year.
- THESE ARE NOT LISTSERVS IN THE CONVENTIONAL SENSE where they are open to posting by anyone (these kinds of listservs can degrade to be a place to air opinions with endless email chatter). The only entity allowed to post to the listservs is staff of the New Jersey SNP. We announce, analyze, and summarize changes in regulatory requirements, and time-critical alerts from local, State, or Federal agencies, as well as technical guidance in the practice of IPM. We also keep them informed of training, conference, and funding opportunities for their stakeholders.
- We have designed all pages to be compliant with 10 of the 11 NEIPMC Web Page Standards.
- In 2005, the New Jersey SNP website housed more than 50 Project web pages plus over 750 individual listserv postings in the Online Listserv Posting Archive (see Appendix 3 for the

Rutgers Pest Management Office website map that houses the SNP web pages). In 2005, we added a hyperlinked NEIPMC logo to all of our SNP web pages.

- In 2005, the website received well over one-half million hits. The top pages viewed included those related to crop profiles, School IPM, and pesticide applicator training.

Pesticide Use Surveys, Crop Profiles, and PMSPs

- The New Jersey SNP gathers pest management data and input from researchers, growers, crop consultants, pesticide users, regulators, and Extension faculty and staff in New Jersey. In December 2005, we updated and announced the online posting of new New Jersey pesticide use survey reports and maps.
- In 2005, NJinPAS-funded Work Groups analyzed data for tomato, kale, pumpkins, and cucumber in New Jersey.
- Crop profiles and PMSPs that have been or will be submitted in 2005 are listed below (*for issues impacting submission of profiles and PMSPs proposed for 2004, please see 'Notes to the NEIPMC' below*).
 1. In 2005, NJinPAS-funded Work Groups prepared and submitted crop profiles for **sweet potato** (*as proposed for 2005*) and **green pepper** (*first proposed for 2004*); these 2 profiles were announced and posted online for easy access by New Jersey stakeholders, other mid-Atlantic states, the NEIPMC, EPA, and USDA.
 2. New crop profiles for **cucumber** and **pumpkin** will be submitted as proposed within the no-cost 2005 contract extension of June 2006.
 3. New crop profiles for **kale** and **tomato** and a revised crop profile for **blueberry** were not submitted by the June 30, 2005 contract closing date for 2004. They will be submitted in late 2005/early 2006.
 4. The '**PMSP for Carrots** for New Jersey' was completed in May 2005 as scheduled but was not processed internally for the proposed June submittal to the NEIPMC. We will submit it by the close of 2005 for approval and posting on the national PMSP website.
 5. For the 2005 contract, we proposed **PMSPs for honey bees and blueberry** for New Jersey. They will be completed as proposed within the 2005 contract year which ends on June 30, 2006 (*within the no-cost extension by the NEIPMC*). Although our Apiary Extension Specialist has left RCRE, we have made tentative arrangements with him to be the technical lead on the Honey Bee PMSP since he and the NJDA State Apiarist co-authored the original crop profile published in 2004.
- All Crop Profiles and PMSPs produced by the New Jersey SNP are technically peer reviewed prior to submittal to the NEIPMC. To make sure that our reviewers had the most current USDA guidelines, we revised and posted online the 'Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Technical Review Form for New Jersey Crop Profiles' as well as the new national PMSP guidelines published in February 2005.

Conferences, surveys, special projects, attendance at other events

- Project Director George Hamilton was a speaker at the '2005 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention and Trade Show' where he addressed the spread and potential control of brown marmorated stinkbug on fruit and vegetable farms. Based upon his current research, he presented information on its current distribution, identifying characteristics, host plants, damage caused, current and potential monitoring techniques, and possible control measures.

Special Project: Improving Public Awareness of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

- The NE IPM Center provided funding to increase the public's awareness about an invasive insect, the brown marmorated stink bug, thought to have been introduced from China into the Allentown, PA area in the mid to late 1990's. Since being introduced it has spread to surrounding states and is now found throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Initially, the Center provided money to develop and produce an awareness magnet specific to New Jersey, PA, and New York. The magnets identified the insect and provided information about how to report a sighting (state-specific phone number and RCRE Website) and receive information about the insect (RCRE website). Initially 3,000 magnets were produced (1,000 per state). Magnets for Pennsylvania and New York were provided to each state Department of Agriculture who distributed the magnets at public meetings, etc. In New Jersey, each county RCRE office received 100 magnets that were distributed at county fairs, grower meetings and to office walk-ins. Due to the popularity of the program in New Jersey, an additional 1,000 magnets were produced using other funds and distributed to RCRE offices.
- Due to the spread of this insect several other states have expressed interest in the program. As a result, the NEIPMC provided additional funding to produce 1,000 magnets apiece for West Virginia and Delaware. These magnets were distributed to representatives of the WV and DE Department of Agriculture. Two other states, Maryland and Maine, have requested permission to modify, produce and distribute magnets for use within their respective states.
- Prior to this program, this insect was only known to occur in Pennsylvania and Warren County New Jersey. Today, based on hundreds of phone calls and website responses, we know that this insect is found in Pennsylvania as far west as Harrisburg and throughout most of New Jersey. In addition, this program has confirmed its presence in Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. Unconfirmed reports have been received from New York, Massachusetts and Maine.

Suggestions/Notes to the Northeastern IPM Center

1. We are changing our name from the New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies Project to the New Jersey State Network Project in line with the streamlined style and objectives of the NEIPMC.
2. We were challenged this year by the affects of the untimely loss/illness of key commodity Extension Specialists (4) and shifts in availability of project management and staff. This did affect meeting proposed submittal dates for our non- deliverables of Crop Profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans. However, it did not affect the quality of our SNP stakeholder services and networking. We shared regional resources to produce PMSPs sourcing other States' Extension Specialists. All positions have now been filled, and we expect to fulfill or exceed proposed document delivery dates to the NEIPMC.

E. Appendices

1. New Jersey SNP Advisory Committee Members – 2005
2. 2004 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
3. NEIPMC and Regional Partners– 2005
4. Listserv Postings 2001-2005 Sorted By Topic
5. Pest Management Office Web Site Map (including SNP pages)