

## A. Grant Data

- Title: **Strawberry Crop Profile for New England**
- Type: **Crop Profile**
- Lead investigator (name, title, institution, address, phone, fax, email):  
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- Co-Project Directors/Team members (name, title, institution):  
*Dave Handley from the Univ. of Maine,*  
*Ann Hazelrigg from Univ. of Vermont,*  
*Alan Eaton from the Univ. of New Hampshire,*  
*Steve Alm from Univ. of Rhode Island, and*  
*Lorraine Los from Univ. of Connecticut*
- State(s) involved: ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI
- Funding Year(s): 2005-2006 (extended to 3/2007)
- Funding amount: **\$4,411**

**B. Nontechnical Summary.** An overview of the project, briefly outlining its context and key components, *written to a lay audience*. You should cover what you were funded to do, why, and who did it.

The purpose of this project is to write a comprehensive crop profile for strawberries grown in New England. No crop profile for strawberries currently exists for any individual New England state, except for New Hampshire; a profile published in 1999 and which is now largely out-of-date. A crop profile is a synopsis of pests and management practices for a specified crop at a point in time and forms a baseline from which improvements can be made. Using statistically valid data a crop profile identifies all insect pests, diseases, weed and abiotic factors that may impact crop yield or quality such that management practices are employed to mitigate impacts. It also identifies all the pest management practices employed. The drafting of a crop profile can also reveal gaps in effective management strategies and provide a structure for formulating an effective response or research needs (e.g., IR-4, etc.).

Additional impetus for development of the crop profile and eventual Pest Management Strategic Plan (PSMP) for New England strawberries comes from the fact that strawberries are among the crops commonly consumed by children. In fact, since a high percentage of the crop is sold on a PYO basis, many children are also exposed to the fields in which the strawberries are grown, increasing the risk of exposure to pesticides. The crop profile proposed here will be developed in close collaboration with state liaisons and growers in each of the 6 New England states. It will be developed using the NEPMNet crop profile template, which insures compliance with USDA Crop Profile requirements. A special

effort will be made to include issues related to organic strawberry production.

**C. Objectives.** Restate your project objectives. After each objective, provide a brief (1-3 sentence) narrative about whether you've achieved it; if it was modified, mention how.

**Objective:** To compile a comprehensive crop profile on strawberries for New England

The project leader used the strawberry survey summary information to generate a comprehensive strawberry crop profile draft using the NEPMN template and verifying it with the USDA Crop Profile 'Required Minimum Elements' published by W. Burr.

**D. Approach.** Briefly, in 1-2 paragraphs, describe your methods of gathering data and the overall design of your project.

The New England Pest Management Network submitted a proposal for funding in 2004 for conducting a New England-wide crop survey for strawberries. This proposal was funded and a comprehensive 20-page survey tool was developed using the statistically validated protocol developed by D. A. Dillman (Dillman, 2000, Coli et al, 2001). This survey was then mailed to 500 growers throughout New England with a return rate of 19%. The survey results were tabulated and summarized and used to develop a regional crop profile of strawberries for New England. The crop profile format conforms to the protocol set out in the NEPMN Crop Profile Procedures and Template and verifying it with the USDA Crop Profile 'Required Minimum Elements' published by W. Burr. Additional data and information relevant to the crop profile was obtained from New England Agricultural Statistics Service and from the Crop Data Management Systems, Inc.

A draft of the profile document will be mailed to all Co-Project Directors/Team members listed above for review. When finalized the crop profile will be published in all appropriate venues and submitted to the USDA database.

**E. Results.**

1) Briefly describe the status of each crop profile, PMSP, or survey that you were funded to develop. Include a discussion of any unexpected events that seem noteworthy.

All survey data has been tabulated and summarized. The crop profile draft is almost complete and will be mailed to review team for final comments by August 25, 2006. It is expected that this process will be complete and the crop profile published by the end of Sept. 2006.

2) Append your final version of the document(s), or include the url if it has already been posted. If not complete, include a draft and a timeline for completion.