

Progress Report — 2008

A. Grant Data

12/01/08

Title: West Virginia Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies

Type: STATE NETWORK PROJECT

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States Involved: WV, CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT

Funding Year: 01/01/08 to 03/14/09

Funding Amount: \$5,000

B. Non-Technical Summary

The State Network Project has served as the primary information source for federal regulatory agencies (such as EPA and the USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy) regarding the use of pesticides and other IPM tactics in West Virginia. The SNP has direct connection to extension personnel throughout West Virginia and has the professional experience to adeptly answer queries about pesticides and other pest management methods in the grower community. The WV State Network Project will continue to contribute to informed pesticide decision-making through maintenance of a group of advisory members, coordination and communication with allied programs within the state and the region, and maintenance of linkages with federal partners and state clientele. Pesticide and pest management information will be communicated throughout the state through meetings, direct contact, mail, e-mail, print, newsletter, and website information.

C. Objective(s)

1. To adeptly answer EPA and USDA queries about pesticides and other pest management methods in the grower community.

The West Virginia SNP has responded to EPA and USDA queries and other queries about pests, pesticides and other pest management methods in the grower community in West Virginia.

2. Continue to maintain an active advisory group in order to seek comments and advise on important pesticide and pest management issues in West Virginia.

The West Virginia SNP has met this objective by maintaining contact with members of a West Virginia advisory group to seek their comments dealing not only with important pesticide issues, but also pest and pest management needs and concerns.

3. Communication to West Virginia stakeholders. To update, on a monthly basis, a website with current information and links.

The West Virginia SNP has met this objective by communicating pest management information to stakeholders via direct contact, mail, e-mail, newsletter, and website information. A monthly newsletter dealing with information on pests, pest management, pesticide regulatory issues, and funding opportunities dealing with pest management is posted on a website. The West Virginia SNP serves as a liaison among the NE IPM Center, West Virginia University, and other key agencies in the state.

4. To distribute and document NEIPM Center-related information, such as release of RFA's meeting dates, and regional IPM publications of importance in a timely fashion to all appropriate contacts. To collaborate with stakeholders, Extension specialists and agents, and researchers at West Virginia University and in the northeast to carry out IPM implementation in West Virginia.

The West Virginia SNP has continued to solicit and facilitate applications from qualified individuals or groups in West Virginia for funds available from the NE IPM Center. The West Virginia SNP has collaborated with research counterparts by being an active participant in proposals for funding. Collaboration has been maintained with growers and Extension agents to carry out IPM implementation in West Virginia.

5. To help process, when necessary, subcontracts between the NE IPM Center and other entities of the SNP leader's institution to minimize total indirect costs.

The West Virginia SNP continues to pass funds from the Northeastern IPM Center to any programs or individuals of West Virginia University that have contracts with the Center.

D. Results

Objective 1: The WV SNP has responded to the following queries regarding regulatory requests required by the Northeastern IPM Center and has forwarded the information to individuals with agricultural responsibilities who have direct contact with stakeholders. Other queries dealing with pests, pest management, pesticide regulations, pesticide safety and pesticide recommendations have come from growers in West Virginia and neighboring states, West Virginia Extension specialists and agents, West Virginia professional association members, and the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators. A schedule of comments were:

1. Endosulfan Updated Risk Assessments; Notice of Availability, and Solicitation of Usage Information ; Extension of Comment Period: January 2, 2008
2. Cause Marketing Federal Register Notice-Extension of Comment Period: January 2, 2008 (AAPSE Members)
3. Department of Homeland Security's new chemical security regulation and Chemicals of Interest list. Pesticides included?: January 3, 2008 (AAPSE Members)
4. Endosulfan comment period ends Feb. 19. Comment Period Extended. USDA. Wilfred Burr.: January 7, 2008.

5. Query/Response to Program: IPM Approach for the General Public Facilitated through Master Gardeners. U. of Maryland. : January 8, 2008.
6. Japanese Residue Tolerances for 11 Pesticides: Invitation to Comment.: January 9, 2008.
7. Endosulfan Comment period ends Feb. 19. : February 1, 2008.
8. EPA labeling changes; protection of endangered species. : Comments from West Virginia Vegetation Management Association members. : February 5, 2008.
9. Malathion uses (gooseberries). APHIS, USDA. Teung. F. Chin. : February 12, 2008.
10. IR-4 Support for Malathion on Tobacco. APHIS, USDA. Teung.F. Chin. : February 12, 2008.
11. EPA Orders Scotts to Stop Selling Certain Pesticides.: April 30, 2008.
12. Long-Term Pesticide Exposure May Increase Risk of Diabetes. : June 5, 2008. (AAPSE Members)
13. Registration of Home Garden Uses of Chlorothalonil in West Virginia. : June 6, 2008.
14. Notice: EPA to conduct a public workshop on termiticide performance testing guideline. : July 7, 2008: (AAPSE Members).
15. EPA News Release—Soil Fumigant Pesticides Subject to New Safety Measures. : July 10, 2008. (AAPSE Members)
16. EPA Acts to Address Carbofuran Residues in Food. EPA is Revoking the Regulations that Allow Carbofuran Residues in Food. : July 24, 2008. (AAPSE Members)
17. EPA Actions on Soil Fumigants. : August 26, 2008. (Pesticide Safety Education Program Leaders)
18. AAPSE Thoughts and Comments on Soil Fumigants RED. : September 24, 2008. (AAPSE Members)
19. Comments requested on “Green labeling”. EPA to Consider to Allow Pesticide Product Labels to Carry a Logo, Seal of Approval, or Statement Indicating the Product is Some Way Safer Than Other Products. : September 28, 2008. (AAPSE Members)
20. EPA Withdrawing Its PR Notice on Third Party Cause Marketing. : September 30, 2008. (AAPSE Members)
21. EPA Acts On Cause Marketing of Pesticides. : October 1, 2008. (AAPSE Members)
22. Questions About Systemic Granular Fungicide in West Virginia. : October 1, 2008.
23. EPA Advisory Committee Report. Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee. : October 10, 2008. (AAPSE Members)

24. “Green” Labeling Update. : Comparative Safety Statements or Logos for Pesticide Labels. October 10, 2008. (AAPSE Members)

25. Soil Fumigants Registration Eligibility Document (RED). Nov.10, 2008. (AAPSE Members)

Individuals with agricultural responsibilities in West Virginia, Extension agents and specialists, personnel from the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Pesticides Division, members of State Professional Associations, growers, and a representative from a major agricultural retail dealership were contacted concerning the above notices for comments and response to the queries.

Contact was made with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Pesticides Division to seek information on pesticide registration. In addition, we have kept up to date on information dealing with strategy and pesticide registration to manage soybean rust, vegetable diseases and insects, and ornamental insects and diseases in 2008. This information was related to West Virginia stakeholders via list serve. In addition, there were 120 e-mail queries with responses dealing with pests, pest management, pesticide safety, and pesticide recommendations. In order to assist Extension agents with queries on pest problems, 26 Quick Reference Fact Sheets were prepared dealing with identification of vegetable and ornamental diseases.

(<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/ipm/factsheet/WVUQuickRefPestFactsheets2.0.pdf>)

Objective 2: Members of an active advisory group were contacted by e-mail or phone to keep them abreast of the West Virginia SNP activities and to communicate current pest management issues, and request their comments and suggestions on pesticides up for review. At large are 23 members to seek selected information dealing with pest management and pesticide regulatory issues. Members of the advisory group presented comments and concern for the need in resistance management. Persistent weeds are a continual problem in orchard situations and some weeds are not being controlled by the products available. It is difficult to adapt many of the cultural practices for controlling these problems. Grower’s use of genetically modified corn and correct use to prevent development of resistance is still discussed. More education is needed to show how using pest management methods improperly will lead to pest resistance. New chemistries with activity against the current insect problems on tree fruit continue to be needed. Disease resistance has developed on mainstay fungicides used on fruit. There is a concern that there are no effective alternatives and no alternatives to build a resistance management strategy. Comments were made on the need for registering of effective pesticide products in the state and concerns on pesticide labeling.

Objective 3: Pesticide information dealing with registration, cancellation and web site update were included in a monthly newsletter, “Look What’s Out There in Integrated Pest Management.” In Look What’s Out There, information is provided to extension agents, growers, and the general public on current research and events in pest management. Articles presented include information on new pest management strategies such as resistant plant varieties, biocontrol agents, new or reissued pesticides, EPA and USDA activities, and pesticide alternatives. The newsletter also includes further information on pesticides and provides notices of pesticide cancellations and pesticides that are up for registration. Other articles deal with the current status of pests and strategies for their control, pesticide application and safety, and general information about pests. Included in the newsletter are lists of funding opportunities and events such as conferences and training opportunities dealing with pest management.

Information on pest management practices were made available to federal/ West Virginia agencies in a timely manner in response to current and future issues dealing with IPM tactics, including pesticides. Notice of the West Virginia newsletter “Look What’s Out There” was sent to the Northeastern IPM Center to be included in the Center’s Northeast IPM Monitor newsletter and On Target IPM news.

Objective 4: The West Virginia SNP Leader served as a liaison among the NE IPM Center, West Virginia University, and other key agencies in the state. Information such as release of RFAs (e.g., National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program, USDA-CSREES, USDA Grant and Partnership Programs-Invasive Species Research, Technical Assistance, Prevention and Control, IR-4 Biopesticide Research Program, SARE: Partnership Grant Program, SARE: Farmer Grant Program, the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center availability of funding through the Northeastern Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program, CSREES availability of funding through its Plant Biosecurity program, the NEIPM Center availability of funding through its IPM Partnership Grants Program, RFA for the Integrated Organic Program, the Northeast Vegetable IPM Working Group (funded by the NEIPM Center), Vegetable and Strawberry IPM Educator Exchange Program) provided to Extension agents, Extension Specialists, University researchers, and advisory group members, Other information dealing with publications was included in the WV SNP newsletter and posted on the website.

Objective 5: The West Virginia SNP Leader continues to solicit and facilitate applications from qualified individuals or groups in West Virginia for funds available from the NEIPM Center. The West Virginia SNP Leader has collaborated with research counterparts by being an active participant in proposals for funding. The West Virginia SNP Leader continues to participate in all subcontracts between the NE IPM Center and other entities of West Virginia University in order to minimize total indirect costs for the Center. The SNP Leader continues to pass funds from the NE IPM Center to any programs or individuals of West Virginia University that have contracts with the Center. The SNP Leader continues to communicate with West Virginia University Office of Sponsored Programs to ensure that grants are consolidated and funds are transmitted to Principle Investigators who hold NE IPM Center IPM Competitive or Partnership grants.

E. Impacts

Objective 1: Comments and concerns were expressed by stakeholders, Extension specialists, agents, members of professional associations using pest management tactics, and a representative of a major retail dealer dealing with pests, pesticide usage, labeling, alternative strategies, and resistance management. Potential changes in pesticide labeling have a direct effect on the pesticide applicator with regard to his method of operation. Current pest problems have brought about the need for new pesticides registered in the state. Pesticides registered in other states for use on field and orchard crops need to be registered in West Virginia. Research is being conducted on cultural practices for controlling nematodes, but in the mean time there is no good management available. The loss of Nematicur as a registered pesticide for treatment of fruit trees may lead to problems with lesion nematodes or dagger nematodes and virus transmission. Pest resistance to pesticides relate to the need for grower education in resistance management strategies as expressed and demonstrated by Extension specialists and agents. Alternative strategies other than pesticides are now endorsed. In organic agriculture, research is still needed

for organic seed treatments for Pythium and Rhizoctonia. Seed maggots in sweet peas and beans are a continual problem and need management. Use of beneficial insects for management of economic insects of vegetables is being considered in different areas of West Virginia. This approach would have an impact by safeguarding human health and the environment.

Objective 2: Comments from members of the advisory group have resulted in needed publications for educating the grower community and implementing IPM. In response to queries from EPA, USDA, and state agencies, members of the Advisory group have contributed to sound decision making with regard to pesticide usage and use of alternative strategies, resulting in economic benefits and safeguarding human health and the environment. Comments from members of the Advisory Group have resulted in presenting information for educating the grower community and implementing IPM. This has been done on a yearly basis.

Objective 3: Information gathered from the website have provided stakeholders with 1) knowledge of pest management tools to implement IPM that are economically beneficial, 2) information to respond to EPA and USDA with regard to regulatory issues, pesticide usage and tactics needed for IPM implementation in West Virginia, and 3) alternatives to pest management that are safe to human health and are environmentally sound.

Objective 4: West Virginia University research and extension personnel have developed new research and outreach programs for IPM implementation in West Virginia and the region. These endeavors have involved management of plant pathogens and animal parasites, herbicide management, insect management with beneficial insects, and cultural management of pests. Alternatives to pesticides have been introduced that present an approach to pest management that safeguards human health and are environmentally sound. Examples of collaborative efforts among stakeholders interested in the development and implementation of IPM strategies are:

The West Virginia SNP continued to utilize the established links with federal, regional, and West Virginia agencies and agricultural researchers, extension specialists, and other stakeholders to distribute pest management program information via e-mail, website, and a list serve.

Communication and cooperation across state lines and sharing of resources has been carried out with other SNP Leaders associated with the Northeastern IPM Center. (See Letter of Support). Support has been given to Dr. Amy Brown, a Maryland SNP Leader, for creation of a database for training material and resources to be shared across state lines and IPM approach for the general public facilitated through Master Gardeners.

The West Virginia SNP website is operating to facilitate communication links with the northeast SNP Leaders and other stakeholders. The URL site is:

<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/ipm/pestprog/WVINPAS/index.htm>

The SNP Leader is technical advisor and serves on the Board of Directors of two major professional associations in West Virginia, the West Virginia Pest Control Operators' Association and the West Virginia Vegetation Management Association. The West Virginia SNP Leader assisted by facilitating training of the members to maintain pesticide certification. Commodity meetings and pesticide-user meetings were attended to stay abreast of pest control measures used in the state.

Collaboration has also been maintained between the Pesticide Safety Education Program, and the

West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Pesticides Division. Grant Bishop, Assistant Director, WV Department of Agriculture, provided updated information on registered pesticides in West Virginia.

Collaboration has been maintained with the West Virginia University IPM and IR-4 Programs. Information has been presented in the “Look What’s Out There” newsletter.

West Virginia Extension agents and the SNP Leader collaborated with Michael Wunsch, plant pathologist, at Cornell University, on a survey of alfalfa brown root rot in the northeast and West Virginia that was published in 2008.

The West Virginia SNP Leader cooperated in a PIPE program with the West Virginia University research entomologist and IPM coordinator to survey for soybean aphid, soybean rust, and soybean legume viruses at 4 sites (counties) in West Virginia.

In cooperation with a vegetable grower in West Virginia, demonstrations of IPM tactics to manage early blight of tomato and powdery mildew of pumpkin were presented by DVD to growers in West Virginia.

The West Virginia SNP Leader is currently collaborating with a West Virginia University research entomologist to seek SARE and Northeastern IPM Center funds to carry out research involving an alternative strategy, select beneficial insects, to manage economic insects of vegetables.

In 2008, plant diagnostic clinics were conducted in Wetzel and Marshall Counties to provide stakeholders with technical information on integrated pest management and problem solving techniques.

Presentations on plant diseases and their management were delivered by the West Virginia SNP Leader to 249 Master Gardener candidates in 12 counties in West Virginia.

The West Virginia SNP Leader, as a diagnostician in the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network has been involved in training First Detectors in 9 counties in West Virginia.

In 2008, a CD with images of Plant Diseases: Field Crops, Fruit, Ornamentals, Turf, Vegetables was updated and made available to county Extension agents and Master Gardeners for their reference. Also, a CD with images of Insects: Field Crops, Fruit, Household, Ornamentals, Turf, Vegetables was also updated and made available to county Extension agents and Master Gardeners for their reference.

A presentation on pesticides and the environment was delivered to Biology students at West Virginia University.

A Northeast Vegetable and Strawberry Pest Identification Guide (a project of the Northeast IPM Vegetable Working Group) was distributed to over 40 Extension agents in West Virginia.

Collaboration was carried out with 159 Future Farmers of America, training them in pest identification and integrated pest management methods for field, fruit, and vegetable crops and ornamentals and turf.

In 2008, the West Virginia SNP Leader collaborated with Extension specialists and agents by developing a private applicator training program involving presentations dealing with cultural methods for pest control, management of early blight and powdery mildew, management of a noxious plant, principles of IPM, management of weeds in pasture, herbicide resistance in row crops, and parasite resistance in small and large ruminants.

Objective5: Improving the transfer of funds from the NE IPM Center to other programs or individuals of West Virginia has facilitated IPM implementation.

F.Appendices

Baniecki, J.F. Plant Diseases: Field Crops, Fruit, Ornamentals, Turf, Vegetables. 2008. CD. Images.

Baniecki, J.F., Eggers, J., Chandran, R., McCann, D. “Look What’s Out There in Integrated Pest Management” newsletter, 12 issues. 2008.

Look What’s Out There website: <http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/pubnwsltr/newslett.htm>

Eggers, J., McCann, D.P., Baniecki, J.F., 2008. 26 Quick Reference Pest Fact Sheets. (Ornamentals, Vegetables, Agricultural Crops).
<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/ipm/factsheet/WVUQuickRefPestFactsheets2.0.pdf>

Baniecki, J.F., McCutcheon, T. Insects: Field Crops, Fruit, Household, Ornamentals, Turf, Vegetables. Updated 2008. CD. Images.

Baniecki, J.F., Woodworth, R. 2008. Private Applicator Recertification Training. DVD. Dealing With A Common Tomato Problem: Early Blight.

Baniecki, J.F., Woodworth, R. 2008. Private Applicator Recertification Training. DVD. Dealing With A Common Pumpkin Problem: Powdery Mildew.