

New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides & Alternative Strategies - State Network Projects

Project Description

Literature Review, Previous Work, and Related Experience

Under Northeast Integrated Pest Management Center Subcontract No.: 2016-RU-USDA-9759, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension or 'RCRE' created the New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies (NJinPAS). It is part of a land-grant university collaboration of 'Mid-Atlantic Partners' consisting of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia. The 'Mid Atlantic Information Network for Pesticides & Alternative Strategies' (MAINPAS) state collaboration is designed to provide a structure to gather and transmit information on issues relevant to both current and transitional pest management strategies. Its purpose is to improve the level of knowledge, awareness, and understanding of local, State, regional, and national pest management practices. New Jersey stakeholders are instrumental in identifying state pest management issues; these are then outlined in crop profiles and strategy plans. It is also important to provide stakeholders with compliance advisories when necessary. The information gathered and distributed by NJinPAS is key to informed decision-making by Federal regulators on pest management issues that impact New Jersey.

Advisory Committee - NJinPAS goals and objectives are guided by an Advisory Committee comprised of New Jersey stakeholders representing a diversity of perspectives and technical expertise. The Committee includes representatives from commodity groups, grower organizations, environmental and public interest groups, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension (RCRE), research faculty of the Rutgers University College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, the Pesticide Control Program of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), and pesticide registrants.

The NJinPAS Advisory Committee is now comprised of 34 New Jersey stakeholders representing a diversity of perspectives and technical expertise. Specifically, this committee includes representatives from agricultural and horticultural industry (22%); Extension (24%); University researchers (18%); environmental and public interest groups (9%); and state and local government (19%). Attachment 1 provides a revised list of organizations and individuals who now serve on the NJinPAS Advisory Committee.

Since NJinPAS inception in 2001, the Advisory Committee has participated in five meetings to guide the objectives of the project. These meetings were held on November 16, 2001, September 27, 2002, September 17, 2003 November 3, 2004 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The fifth meeting will be held on December 5, 2006. Recommendations made by the NJinPAS Advisory Committee are posted in Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes on a webpage created specifically to document the proceedings of the Committee; see www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/Advisorycommittee.Htm. These documents are also distributed to the NE IPMC Directors and our mid-Atlantic partner States and advisors.

Based on stakeholder feedback received in 2002 and 2003 Advisory Committee Meetings, NJinPAS determined the commodities of concern for crop profiles and PMSPs for New Jersey to be completed for 2004 and 2005. These included sweet potatoes, honey bees, tomatoes and pumpkins. At the 2004 Advisory Committee meeting, the group decided that since a crop profile had been completed for honey bees that developing a PMSP for honey bees would be a logical next step.

Coordination With Other Mid-Atlantic State Network Projects - To facilitate project communication, NJinPAS set up a closed listserv for the Project Directors of the mid-Atlantic State Network Projects (DE, MD, NJ, NY and WV) in March 2002. Members have used the listserv to transmit meeting minutes; 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 to update each other on objectives and procedures, and upcoming projects of their respective information networks in March 2002, July 2002, August 2003, October 2004 and August 2005. Project Directors discussed projections for crop profiles (Delaware, Maryland, New York, West Virginia, and New Jersey) and Pest Management Strategic Plans (New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia). Arrangements were made for the release of crop profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs) to all interested states. Final collaboration between members in 2005 was confirmed by email in January.

Coordination with Other Programs and Agencies - In addition to coordination with other State Network Projects, we have coordinated with other regional integrated pest management (IPM), pesticide safety, and IR-4 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.

NJinPAS coordinates projects with IR-4. Bill Nicholson, Director of the Rutgers Agricultural Research & Extension Center (RAREC) serves as the Extension coordinator for IR-4 and provides information regarding New Jersey based IR-4 projects and priorities. Jerry Baron, IR-4 National Program Specialist, routinely provides NJinPAS with information for posting to our listservs. Further, IR-4 specialists have been members of the PMSP Work Groups for both peaches and carrot. Both Edith Lurvey and Van Starner were instrumental in advising of new use candidates for both of these commodities.

NJinPAS collaborates with State and Federal agencies to better serve our stakeholders. There is a strong partnership of the NJinPAS with the NJDEP and US EPA. Thomas Kazcsorski, NJDEP Section 24C and 18 Coordinator, are routinely consulted for technical reviews as part of the process in publishing new webpages. Further, Thomas Kazcsorski provides the program with expedited notices of Section 18s and 24Cs for posting to the listservs. Fran Gerding, Senior Environmental Specialist with the NJDEP provides monthly recertification course updates that we publish to both the NJinPAS website and listservs. Audrey Moore, Regional Ag Policy Specialist for EPA Region 2 is a frequent contributor to the NJinPAS listserv, thus keeping our stakeholders in the Federal loop. We frequently consult with EPA's Office of Pesticide Program's Special Review and Reregistration Division on Federal Register Notices. We periodically consult with Cheryl Greene of EPA's PESP Program for new information for outreach to promote use of reduced risk pesticides and biologicals.

Additionally, we now work very closely with Carl Schulze, the Director of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) Division of Plant Industry in order to provide NJinPAS

stakeholders with advisories on critical issues such as Asian Long Horned Beetle, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug and SODS; weekly alerts have included details of the quarantine and eradication programs for New Jersey towns invaded by this invasive pest. NJinPAS worked with the USDA APHIS, NJDA, other state Departments of Agriculture and Extension Specialists to set up an invasives website at www.rce.rutgers.edu/invasives to allow the public and private sectors to report sightings of either the Asian Long Horned Beetle or the Brown Marmorated Stinkbug. RCRE provided NJDA updates on Sudden Oak Death when this pest problem became known in the United States; see www.rce.rutgers.edu/sod/. NJinPAS has coordinated regional resources for the NJDA in its work to prepare applications for Section 18 emergency exemptions for fungicides for new invasive soybean rust.

Other NJDA collaboration continues in the production of crop profiles. Specifically, State Agricultural Statistician Becky Cross assisted NJinPAS in the development of statistics used in the blueberry crop profile under finalization. Also, Mike Stanghellini former RCRE Research Associate and Paul Raybold, the State Apiarist for the NJDA, co-authored the Crop Profile for Honey Bees in New Jersey.

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 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection 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.

Listservs - In 2001, NJinPAS set up and has since maintained an email listserv and mailing infrastructure for expedited delivery to New Jersey stakeholders of more timely pesticide-related information (such as regulation advisories or requests for comment). The listserv membership includes growers, crop consultants, pesticide users, public interest groups, environmental groups, and Extension faculty and staff; listserv enrollment statistics reflect the composition of the Advisory Committee. Currently 300 persons are enrolled in the listservs and of that there were 800 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%). NJinPAS listserv enrollments in the past year have increased from 248 to 300 (a 17% increase), while the total number of individual listserv enrollments had increased from 740 to 800 (an increase of 8%). Posting activity of the listserv has steadily increased from 150 in 2002; to 215 in 2003; and 247 to date for 2004.

Although the availability of the listservs and the Pest Management Office web site continues to be provided to all applicators that attend initial and recertification pesticide training, we have taken measures to increase in the number of stakeholders using these services. Specifically, NJinPAS set up online enrollment in the listservs at www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/listservs.htm to make it easier to enroll. Additionally, we designed a flyer advertising the NJinPAS Listservs and how to enroll in them; this flyer has been revised several times this year to include new additions. We also designed and distribute a flyer

on the web network that serves NJinPAS stakeholders. Members of the Advisory Committee distributed more than 1,000 flyers on the listservs to their stakeholders. Distribution included: the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey, EPA Region 2, NJ Environmental Federation, New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association, Rutgers Fruit IPM Scouting program, NJ Mosquito Control Association, NJ Department of Agriculture; Division of Plant Industry, Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center, RCRE Forestry program, NJDEP Pesticide Control Program, Vegetable and Fruit Working Groups, Vegetable IPM Scouting program, the NJ Pest Control Association, and NJ Farm Bureau. Articles on the NJinPAS Listservs, as well as the PMO webpage have been published in 6 editions of the the RCRE 'Plant & Pest Advisory': Cranberry; Fruit; Field and Forage Crops; Landscape, Nursery, and Turf ; Organic; and Vegetable Crops.

Participants in any NJinPAS listserv automatically receive general announcements via the "NJinPAS Network" listserv. By design, we minimize mass mailings by making available additional listserv 'topic' subgroups that would be used for more specific distribution, including regulation notices or pesticide advisories. There are a total of ten separate listserv categories for open enrollment: Network; Institutions & Interiors; Mosquito; Fruit; Turf, Ornamentals, Greenhouse, & Nursery; Field & Forage Crops; Vegetables; School IPM; Forests & Xmas Trees; and Invasives.

Since listserv inception, timely announcement of non-routine pesticide actions (such as Section 18 Emergency Exemptions, Crisis Exemptions, and Section 24C Special Local Need Registrations) have been made to the appropriate NJinPAS listservs. We are able to process these quickly due to the cooperation of the NJDEP.

Each pesticide action is then archived online chronologically, providing the only web-accessible listing of past and current pesticide registrations and exemptions granted for New Jersey. Specifically, we inaugurated a webpage on 'Listserv Postings' for access to an online archive of all open listserv postings made since October 2001 @ www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/listservpostings.asp. All postings to the open NJinPAS listservs that are archived online may be viewed by date, listserv, or topic. There have been a total of 604 postings to the NJinPAS listservs since inception in late 2001. Site statistics for 2004 showed that the NJinPAS Listserv Archive had more than 300,000 downloads of listserv postings in just one year.

NJinPAS remains flexible to the changing issues and regulations affecting our stakeholders. For example, the New Jersey Pesticide Control regulations were significantly revised in November 2001, greatly impacting training and record keeping requirements for applicators in the State. By February, we had constructed web pages with training regulation guidance and revised record keeping forms in cooperation with the NJDEP PCP. Accordingly, we posted a series of four listserv updates on the regulations and the availability of this online help to the NJinPAS Network listserv. This was a significant contribution to New Jersey applicators as the NJDEP did not have the resources to revise their website similarly in such a timely manner. NJinPAS continues to provide applicators with the most current revisions of pesticide report forms; WebTrends page analysis report shows that approximately 1,105 pesticide report forms downloads have been made from the website this year. In 2002, New Jersey passed the School IPM Act. To meet the demand for tools to implement integrated pest management by this

newly-regulated group, NJinPAS collaborated with the NJDEP to produce a 'Model Plan for School IPM in New Jersey Schools' in advance of the June 12, 2004 compliance date. NJinPAS also set up the School IPM listserv and New Jersey-specific webpages for these stakeholders; see www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/IPM/SchoolIPM/plan.htm

WebSite - In 2001, we had constructed the NJinPAS project home page at www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/NJinPASindex.htm. We developed many new pages in 2002 through 2004 to serve NJinPAS stakeholders. Currently, the website houses 48 NJinPAS web pages plus over 600 online individual listserv postings in the Online Listserv Posting Archive. The website has received well over 1.5 million hits since site inception in 2001. The top pages viewed included those related to School IPM and pesticide applicator training. NJinPAS developed a web page to provide access to previously published reports of surveys and analyses of agricultural and commercial pest management practices in New Jersey. Current reports can be viewed at www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/pesticidesurveys.htm.

NJinPAS State Network Project designed a webpage to provide online access to completed crop profiles and pest management strategy plans for New Jersey. Crop Profiles for alfalfa, apples, asparagus, blueberry, cranberry, field corn, peaches, spinach, and squash. (www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/CropProfiles.htm). There have been over 11,000 downloads of crop profiles since their posting to the webpage. Pest management strategy plans for Peaches, Carrots and a Regional Spinach PMSP are also posted.

IPM Working Groups – New Jersey stakeholders are broadly represented in the NEIMPC IPM Working Groups. Specifically, Jane Nogaki, founding chairperson of the NJ Environmental Federation is a member of the Greenhouses and Ornamental IPM (GOIPM) Work Group., Dr. Peter Shearer, Extension Specialist in Tree Fruit Entomology, is the co-leader for the Tree Fruit IPM Working Group, Dr. Brad Majek, Extension Specialist in Weed Science, is member of the Vegetable IPM Working Group and Pat Hastings, Extension Program Associate in Pest Management is a member of the NE IPMC working group for Community IPM.

Continued need for NJinPAS: Since its inception, NJinPAS has successfully informed stakeholders on issues related to pest management practices, crop profiles and pest management strategy plans, facilitated stakeholder participation in commodity working groups, developed and strengthened collaborations with state and federal partners and served as a central conduit for the Mid-Atlantic Information Network. In doing so, stakeholders were kept up to date on current issues and were able to justify and obtain funding for projects using information developed by NJinPAS. The relationships maintained with state and federal partners increased NJinPAS's ability to educate these partners on New Jersey specific issues and provided information flow from the partners that enhanced information distributed to the listserv's. Maintaining these activities and linkages is critical to New Jersey's diverse array of stakeholders for a variety of reasons including EPA and state regulatory actions, development of resistant pests and market decisions made by agribusiness. Without NJinPAS, New Jersey stakeholders would not be apprised of issues in a timely manner and thereby lack the ability to anticipate and react to upcoming problems.

Objectives

This project proposes to facilitate informed decision-making on pest management practices by

- maintaining an advisory committee,
- acting as a liaison between NE IPM Center, land grant universities, other state agencies, and other mid-Atlantic state network projects,
- serving as a federal and state agency primary information source,
- providing compliance advisories and assistance to stakeholders,
- maintaining a project website,
- facilitate involvement of stakeholders in commodity working groups, and
- manage NE IPM Center subcontracts.

Approach and Procedures

Objective 1 - Maintain an advisory committee: The Advisory Committee previously assembled will guide the activities of the NJinPAS. This committee is currently comprised of representatives from Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension, research faculty of the Rutgers University College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, the Pesticide Control Program of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, commodity groups, grower organizations, US EPA, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and pesticide registrants. Hamilton will chair the committee, call meetings, prepare agendas, and report committee decisions. Recommendations of the NJinPAS Advisory Committee in the form of minutes will be documented and posted on the Advisory Committee webpage (www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/Advisorycommittee.Htm). Further communication will be conducted via electronic mail, surface mail, or phone. The committee will meet at least annually at the Rutgers University main campus or at one of the Rutgers Research and Development Centers located throughout the New Jersey.

Objective 2 – Act as a liaison between NE IPMC, land grant universities, other state agencies, and other mid-Atlantic state network projects: NJinPAS will coordinate its activities with State and regional stakeholders including state and regional IPM, Pesticide Education and Safety programs, state IR-4 programs, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and the NJDEP Pesticide Control Program. NJinPAS websites and listserv will continue to notify all of these stakeholders of resources, compliance advisories, and other pertinent information.

The existing State Network Projects in other mid-Atlantic states (Delaware, Maryland, New York, and West Virginia) avoid duplication of efforts and encourage sharing of information. In order to facilitate collaboration between states, the Project Directors in each state will communicate and coordinate regional activities via regular mail, email, and conference calls when needed. An annual meeting of the MAINPAS State Network Projects will be held in conjunction with the Northeast Tri-Agency Meeting scheduled in the fall of 2006.

Objective 3 - Serve as a federal and state agency primary information source: Links will be maintained 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.

To facilitate accessibility to pesticide and alternative strategy information for Federal and State partners (as well as our other stakeholders), NJinPAS will continue to maintain web pages to catalog listserv postings, crop profiles, pesticide use surveys, New Jersey pesticide registrations, and PMSPs. We will continue to provide open enrollment to the 10 NJinPAS listservs. Advisory Committee members will continue to use NJinPAS as a source for their stakeholders.

We will also keep the NE IPMC advised of availability of these reports online by the MAINPAS listserv. Advisories serve to announce online availability of new resources developed under NJinPAS such as pesticide use surveys, crop profiles, or PMSPs.

Objective 4: - Provide 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. This will be done through the use of the NJinPAS current websites and listserv's. Addition to these will be made at the request of the advisory committee and when deemed necessary by the project leader.

The NJinPAS program currently maintains ten open enrollment 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. Participants in the any of the NJinPAS listservs will automatically receive universal announcements via the Network listserv. We will use the listservs to transmit pesticide notices, compliance advisories, and requests for comment. The listservs will also be used to announce online availability of information or new resources developed under NJinPAS such as pesticide use surveys, crop profiles, or PMSPs.

NJinPAS will use the network listserv and nine topical listservs to transmit concise summaries of time-critical pesticide information. Specifically, postings to NJinPAS will summarize more technical information or reports (such as the Federal Register), and will include sections on background and further information. Additionally, NJinPAS will post each listserv posting to the sortable archive of all the open listserv postings. These may be viewed by date, listserv, or topic at www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/listservpostings.asp.

Objective 5 - Maintain a project website: NJinPAS will continue maintain and expand a project website that meets NEIPMC published standards. The home page for the NJinPAS project is www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/NJinPASindex.htm. The website currently houses over 48 NJinPAS web pages plus the over 600 online individual listserv postings in the Online Listserv Posting Archive.

Objective 6 - Facilitate involvement of stakeholders in commodity working groups: The SNP will facilitate involvement of stakeholders in commodity working groups. There is a diverse array of expertise of New Jersey stakeholders currently represented on the various NEIPMC working groups that will continue to serve on these working groups at contract renewal. The NJinPAS project director will review current membership of New Jersey stakeholders in the

working groups every six months, enroll new candidates as appropriate, and facilitate their effective involvement.

Objective 7 - Manage NE IPM Center subcontracts: To maximize resources, the NJinPAS Project Director will pass funds from the Northeastern IPM Center to any programs or individuals of the same institution that have contracts with the Center.

Evaluation Plans

The NJinPAS Project Coordinator will monitor and update the NJinPAS Project Director of progress of the project; both will continually evaluate success. Factors to be considered in determining success of the project will be transmission of information to stakeholders by listservs and posting to the website, enrolling and registering New Jersey stakeholders to participate in the NEIPMC IPM Working Groups, managing all subcontracts issued to Rutgers University through Project Director George Hamilton, and response to federal partners and IWGs for information requests and assistance. The Advisory Committee will continue to be a key evaluator of NJinPAS progress. Although input is/will be received from the Advisory Committee via email throughout the length of the project, project objectives will be defined and refined during the annual Advisory Committee meeting. Finally, progress will be reported via annual report to the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center.

Cooperation and Institutional Units Involved

Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension (RCRE) is the lead organization for the NJinPAS project. It is an educational branch of USDA, Rutgers University, and New Jersey county governments. Its mission is to help people improve the quality of their lives by providing research-based information, and informal educational opportunities focused on individual, family, and community needs. Staff of the RCRE Resource Center are available to help with web page design, listserv posting page design and maintenance, online catalog design and development, and trouble shooting of the NJinPAS website.

Rutgers University - The mission of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences is to promote the mission of Rutgers University, with emphasis on the tripartite land grant mission of academics, research, and extension. Emphasis is given to faculty preparation, scholarly presentation, and student preparation for graduate and professional school as well as related careers. Interactive videoconference facilities are located at the three Rutgers University campuses in Camden, New Brunswick, and Newark, and are directly linked to each other. Each room can hold 20 to 25 participants and is equipped with state-of-the-art videoconferencing equipment.

Rutgers University Computer Services maintains and technically supports central UNIX computer servers that will provide Internet access and a website for the NJinPAS project.

Key Personnel

George C. Hamilton - Principal Investigator/Project Director: Oversee project, provide technical leadership, chair NJinPAS Advisory Committee and prepare final reports.

Patricia D. Hastings – Project Coordinator/Senior Associate: Maintain web site; research, compose, and deliver information via NJinPAS listservs; coordinate Advisory Committee meeting; post all listserv postings to the NJinPAS Listserv Online Archive; maintain listserv membership lists, helps facilitate communication with federal partners and stakeholders.

Collaborative Arrangements

Cooperation and contact will be maintained with mid-Atlantic land-grant university State Network Projects , including the University of Delaware, the University of Maryland, Cornell University (New York), and the University of West Virginia.