

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION
SERVICE**

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<p>Project Director(s) (PD):</p> <p>PD George C. Hamilton _____ Institution Rutgers University _____</p> <p>CO-PD _____ Institution _____</p> <p>CO-PD _____ Institution _____</p> <p>CO-PD _____ Institution _____</p> <p>Project Title: NEW JERSEY INFORMATION NETWORK FOR PESTICIDES & ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES</p> <p>Key Words: IPM, Information Network _____</p>	<p align="center">PROPOSAL TYPE</p> <p align="center">For National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program Proposals Only</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Standard Research Proposal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conference</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AREA Award</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Postdoctoral</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Investigator</p> <p><u>Strengthening:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Career Enhancement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Equipment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Seed Grant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Standard Strengthening</p> <hr/> <p align="center">For Higher Education Program Proposals Only:</p> <p>Need Area: _____</p> <p>Discipline: _____</p>
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This proposal addresses the maintenance of a New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies (NJinPAS) as an integral component of a Mid-Atlantic Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies (MAinPAS) for the North Eastern Integrated Pest Management Center (NEIPMC). The Mid-Atlantic Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies is a planned collaboration of the land-grant universities of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and New York to maximize regional resources and communication. The purpose of these networks is to promote informed regulatory decisions on registered pesticides used on pests of commodities grown in the mid-Atlantic.

The NJinPAS will:

- Answer queries posed by federal regulatory agencies (such as the EPA and the USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy) regarding the use of pesticides and other IPM tactics throughout their state. Respond in a timely fashion to requests for information from these agencies, copy the appropriate individuals (as indicated on the query), record responses, and document all responses in year-end reports to the Center.
- Help process, when necessary, subcontracts between the Northeastern IPM Center and other entities of the SNP leader's institution to minimize total indirect costs; SNP leaders are expected to pass funds from the Center to any programs or individuals of the same institution that have contracts with the Center.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0524-0039. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average .50 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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, NJAES Cooperative Extension 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. 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 has influenced informed decision-making by Federal regulators on pest management issues that impact New Jersey.

Advisory Committee – In the past, NJinPAS goals and objectives were 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 Extension (RCE), 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.

In 2007, the NJinPAS Advisory Committee was comprised of 34 New Jersey stakeholders representing a diversity of perspectives and technical expertise. Specifically, this committee includes representatives from agricultural and horticultural industry, extension, university researchers, environmental and public interest groups, and state and local government. 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 participated in six meetings to guide the objectives of the project. 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.

Coordination with Other Programs and Agencies - In addition to coordination with other State Network Projects, NJinPAS has 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. Jerry Baron, IR-4 Director, routinely provided NJinPAS with information for posting to our listservs. Further, IR-4 specialists have been members of the PMSP Work Groups. Both Edith Lurvey and Van Starner were instrumental in advising of new use candidates for both of these activities.

NJinPAS collaborates with State and Federal agencies to better serve our stakeholders. There has been a strong partnership of the NJinPAS with the NJDEP and US EPA. NJDEP has been routinely consulted for technical reviews as part of the process in publishing new webpages, monthly recertification course updates that we publish to both the NJinPAS website and listservs. Audrey Moore, Regional Ag Policy Specialist for EPA Region 2 has been a frequent contributor to the NJinPAS listserv, thus keeping our stakeholders in the Federal loop.

Additionally, the PI works 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, SODS, and soybean rust; 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 invasive species 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. RCE 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.

Statewide coordination of information with a varied group of pest management stakeholders was 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.

Listsers - 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 320 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 300 to 320 (a 7% increase), while the total number of individual listserv enrollments had increased from 800 to more than 1,000 (an increase of over 25%). Posting activity of the listserv has steadily increased from 150 in 2002; to 215 in 2003; 247 in 2004; and 825 to date for 2006.

Participants in any NJinPAS listserv automatically received general announcements via the “NJinPAS Network” listserv. 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) were made to the appropriate NJinPAS listservs. We are able to process these quickly due to the cooperation of the NJDEP.

WebSite - In 2001, a NJinPAS project home page was developed at www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/NJinPASindex.htm. Since 2001, several new pages were developed to serve NJinPAS stakeholders. Currently, the website houses 100 NJinPAS web pages plus over 800 online individual listserv postings in the Online Listserv Posting Archive. The website has received well over 2 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 (www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/pesticidesurveys.htm).

IPM Working Groups – New Jersey stakeholders were 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 and developed and strengthened collaborations with state and federal partners. 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

1. Answer queries posed by federal regulatory agencies (such as the EPA and the USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy) regarding the use of pesticides and other IPM tactics throughout their state. Respond in a timely fashion to requests for information from these agencies, copy the appropriate individuals (as indicated on the query), record responses, and document all responses in year-end reports to the Center.
2. Help process, when necessary, subcontracts between the Northeastern IPM Center and other entities of the SNP leader's institution to minimize total indirect costs; SNP leaders are expected to pass funds from the Center to any programs or individuals of the same institution that have contracts with the Center.

Approach and Procedures

Objective 1 - 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.

Objective 2 - 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 Director of progress of the project will continually evaluate success. Factors to be considered in determining success of the project will be the timely transmission of information to USDA, EPA and the NE IPM Center when requested and managing all NE IPM Center subcontracts issued to Rutgers University through Project Director George Hamilton. Finally, progress will be reported via annual report to the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center.

Cooperation and Institutional Units Involved

NJAES Cooperative Extension - 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.

Rutgers University School of Biological and Environmental Sciences - The mission of the School of Biological 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. Staff is 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, and will provide assistance when videoconferencing is required for meetings.

Key Personnel

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

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.