

Northeastern IPM Center – IPM Partnership Grants – 2009 – Proposal Statement of Work

PD: Kerry H. Richards

Project Title: Pennsylvania State Network Project

This proposal outlines how the Pennsylvania Pest Management Information Center (PMIC) can use currently established networks with the Pennsylvania Division of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (PA-NASS), the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), extension specialists, and commodity groups to serve the required functions by continuing to meet, but not limited to, the following objectives: 1) To serve as the primary source for all requests regarding the use of IPM tactics and pest management practices in Pennsylvania; 2) Interact, on an as needed basis, with IPM working groups, either directly or through the support of others; 3) Maintain a Web site and other communication pathways with the Northeastern IPM Center (NIPMC) as well as other key agencies and commodity groups; and 4) Use outside funding to support data collection and other objectives of the PMIC.

Objective A - Improving the level of knowledge, awareness, and understanding of current grower Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices—including pesticide use—will help agencies and others make informed regulatory decisions. Another purpose of this objective is to provide actual crop production data based on sound science and actual field use. The following three areas will be addressed as part of this objective:

- Serving as the primary information source for federal and state regulatory agencies regarding use of all IPM tactics, including pesticides.
- Serving as a liaison among the NIPMC, the land-grant institution, and other key agencies in the state.
- Providing information in a timely manner to commodity groups, growers, and extension and research specialists.

Procedures to accomplish Objective A:

Procedure A-1: The PMIC will continue to improve and expand when necessary its network that currently links federal partners to agricultural researchers, extension specialists, and other stakeholders so that information on pest management practices is provided in a seamless and timely manner.

Procedure A-2: The PMIC will coordinate field-based reviews, regulatory decisions, and their associated impact on stakeholders.

Procedure A-3: With material available from crop profiles, pesticide use surveys, and other available production guides and fact sheets; and input from specialist and growers, the PMIC can serve as the primary information source and respond in a timely manner to requests from regulatory agencies. For example, information provided may include, but is not limited to, actual crop production and IPM practices, including pesticide use practices for all commodities in the Commonwealth. In the absence of readily available information, the PMIC will contact appropriate

specialists and growers to collect the necessary data and provide the requested information to the requesting agency in a timely manner.

Procedure A-4: The PMIC will continue to serve as a liaison with commodity groups, PDA, PA-NASS, and other state agencies.

Procedure A-5: Commodity organizations, growers, and extension and research specialists will be kept informed of requests for information, and the PMIC's response to such requests through an already established electronic network and through publication of articles regarding regulatory decision making in appropriate commodity organizations' newsletters. The PMIC's manager will review the appropriateness of members on the current electronic network and suggest new members to include. The PMIC staff will annually update this electronic network to ensure accuracy of electronic mail addresses. Where possible and appropriate, members of the electronic network will be encouraged to forward information provided through their own previously established networks. One area for improvement during the next grant period is to work with commodity groups, and corresponding specialists, to more closely target specific crops. In addition, by working with commodity groups and publicizing the availability of these mailing lists to their members will provide the opportunity to broaden existing distribution lists.

Procedure A-6: The PMIC will assume the responsibility to consistently respond in a timely manner to requests for information and other assistance from IPM Working Groups (IWGs).

Procedure A-7: As part of this function, a member of the PMIC will attend PDA Pesticide Advisory Board meetings, NIPMC convened meetings, EPA regional and national meetings, and other functions as appropriate to act as a liaison among the NIPMC, the land-grant institution, and other key agencies in the state.

Procedure A-8: Finally, over the next year, as the deadline for decision making under the FQPA draws to a close, clear and concise information must be readily available to educate growers and all applicators regarding label changes and new product development. Educational materials will be developed and presented as appropriate to commodity organizations, grower groups, extension and research specialists, and regulatory agencies promoting the function and importance of the SNP. This includes both the development of regulatory update programs and the critical review of similar programs developed by outside sources. Historically, the PMIC has produced several educational materials annually: either PowerPoint presentations, fact sheets, or by using other alternative media. Upon request, the PMIC manager has served as an invited speaker at commodity and other stakeholder meetings to present current regulatory information and appropriate update information.

Objective B - Increase input from stakeholders attending already existing functional advisory committee meetings and develop ongoing interaction with IWGs.

Procedures to accomplish Objective B:

Procedure B-1: Even though an advisory group is no longer required, the PMIC manager will continue to attend the Pesticide Education Program (PEP) and the Pennsylvania IPM Program (PaIPM) advisory committee meetings. Members of these groups can provide valuable insight for

priorities and needs and serve as a network to accomplish the other goals of this proposal. The primary function of attendance at these advisory committee meetings is to identify and prioritize critical needs and to evaluate activities of the SNP. An additional facet of this objective is to bring together key individuals to form partnerships and collaborations that will facilitate and promote more informed decision making at all levels. The structure of these advisory committees also will help the PMIC facilitate the effective engagement of stakeholders with appropriate IWGs and other components of the NIPMC. In addition, when necessary, the SNP will engage a broader range of stakeholders, through small group meetings held in conjunction with larger grower meetings.

Procedure B-2: Every effort will be made to continue reaching to representatives other than those who serve on the above mentioned advisory committees including environmental and consumer advocacy groups, sustainable agriculture perspectives, and representatives of non-traditional agricultural areas. The most efficient way to accomplish this would be through an electronic method of communicating to encourage more frequent and open communication. Electronic communication, conference calls, and sub-commodity meetings will be used as necessary to facilitate this contact.

Objective C - To develop and maintain an information network to communicate with stakeholders regarding timely pest management information and priorities to be considered.

Procedures to accomplish Objective C:

Procedure C-1: Although it will no longer be required under this RFA, the most efficient way to meet this objective will be by providing access to crop profiles, pesticide use data, and regulatory decisions through a user-friendly Web site that meets all of the criteria specified by the NIPMC. PMIC's current Web site is in compliance with these criteria and with tactics outlined in this RFA. Information on this page will include, but will not be limited to the following:

- Crop Profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans
- Information regarding IPM practices used by growers
- Pesticide regulatory issues
- Crop production guides
- Links to the PaIPM Pest Problem Solver
- Links to the NIPMC
- Links to regulatory agencies
- Links to pesticide registration, labeling, MSDS information, and to a public version of The National Pesticide Information Retrieval System

Procedure C-2: This Web site will link the PMIC to new and existing partners and serve as a central access for all information that is produced by the PMIC. Web access to this information will provide growers and regulatory partners with the most current information to facilitate informed decision making.

Objective D: Help process as necessary subcontracts between the Northeastern IPM Center and other entities of the SNP's leader institution.

Procedures to accomplish Objective D:

Procedure D-1: As in the past this will be handled through the efforts of the Northeastern IPM Center Director located at The Pennsylvania State University.

Project Summary:

The Pennsylvania Pest Management Information Center (PMIC), through long standing relationships with the Pennsylvania Division of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (PA-NASS), the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), extension specialists, and commodity groups will meet the required functions of the SNP by continuing to meet, but not limited to, the following objectives; 1) To serve as primary source for all requests regarding the use of IPM tactics and pest management practices in Pennsylvania; 2) Interact, on an as needed basis, with IPM working groups, either directly or through the support of others; 3) Maintain a Web site and other communication pathways with the Northeastern IPM Center (NIPMC) as well as other key agencies and commodity groups; and 4) Use outside funding to support data collection and other objectives of the PMIC. The following are several specific measures that will be used to evaluate the progress toward meeting the objectives:

Objective A– To serve as the primary source for all requests regarding the use of pest management practices in Pennsylvania.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Timely processing and response to requests for information regarding pesticide use relative to specific crops and label uses under review
- Availability of IPM practices and pesticide use information
- Involvement of the PMIC manager with commodity groups, and state and national regulatory programs

Objective B – Increase input from stakeholders by participation in the Pesticide Education Program and Pennsylvania IPM Program advisory committees and ongoing interaction with IPM workgroups (IWG's).

Evaluation Criteria:

- Attendance at the Pesticide Education Program and the Pennsylvania IPM Program advisory committee meetings.
- Participation by the PI or support of participation by others in IWG meetings and activities.
- Availability of electronic communication with advisory committee members and IWG's regarding priorities and evaluation of materials developed.

Objective C– Maintain a Web site and other communication pathways with the Northeastern IPM Center (NIPMC) as well as other key agencies and commodity groups.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Availability of current IPM data, including pesticide use surveys, regulatory decisions and other information necessary for pest management decision making.
- Evaluations of presentations given by the PI to increase the awareness of stakeholders regarding pest management practices, pesticide safety, regulatory decisions and other pertinent IPM information.

Benefits to Other States:

Responding to requests for information when chemicals come up for regulatory review will help provide field based information so that decisions can be made based on sound science. Therefore, providing this information not only benefits growers in Pennsylvania, but growers in all states. In addition, the Pesticide Safety In-service that is being planned for April 2009 will be open for others in the Northeastern states to attend. Finally, many growers in Maryland and Delaware also have operations in Pennsylvania so the availability of information from the PMIC can also be used by growers in neighboring states.

Project time line

Attend meetings of the PEP and PaIPM advisory committees: As scheduled

Review and respond to requests from regulatory decision makers.....As requested

Disseminate regulatory decisions and other pertinent information
through electronic and other media.....Ongoing

Interact with Northeastern IWGs On an as-needed basis

Provide detailed accounting reports regarding funding to
others receiving support under this RFA On an as-needed basis

Review of IWGs priorities and their benefits to the state..... May 2009

Attend relevant meetings and present informationOngoing

Revise Web site to reflect new projects
and databasesOngoing as information becomes available

Revise Web site to reflect new projects
regarding IPM practices or pesticide useOngoing

2008 PROGRESS REPORT Pennsylvania State Network Project

A. GRANT DATA

Title: Pennsylvania Pest Management Information Center

- **Date:** December 2, 2008
- **Project Type:** State Network Project
- **Contact Information:** Kerry H. Richards, Ph.D., Senior Extension Associate
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- **State involved:** Pennsylvania
- **Funding Year:** 4/1/2008 - 3/31/2009
- **Funding Amount:** \$5,000

B. NONTECHNICAL SUMMARY

The primary mission of the Pennsylvania State Network Project is to use currently established networks with the Pennsylvania Division of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (PA-NASS), the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), extension specialists, and commodity groups to:

- 1) Serve as primary source for all requests regarding the use of pest management practices in Pennsylvania;
- 2) Interact with all IPM working groups, either directly or through the support of others;
- and 3) Maintain communication pathways with the Northeastern IPM Center (NIPMC) as well as other key agencies and commodity groups.

For the EPA and growers to make informed decisions, and to ensure that decisions are made based on sound science and real-world field level data, there has been an on-going need for information. Meeting this need was streamlined by providing a seamless flow of information through one source, the Pennsylvania State Network Project (PA-SNP). Funding of this proposal continued to support the PA-SNP, which will be delivered through the Pennsylvania Pest Management Information Center (PMIC). Having one contact point for the PA-SNP/PMIC will strengthen the function and process of the Northeastern IPM Center by providing regulatory decision-makers, stakeholders, and others a comprehensive source to find the most current pest management information.

General Accomplishments included:

- Updating of existing vegetable profiles
- Updating of existing website
- Serving as the primary source of pesticide safety/use information for commodity specialists, regulatory agencies and extension educators
- Verification of pesticide use recommendations for production guides

- Providing support for the participation of colleagues working with the Northeastern Community IPM Working Group (IWG)

C. OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Serve as the primary information source for federal regulatory agencies regarding the use of pesticides and other IPM tactics. Respond in a timely fashion to requests for information from these agencies, and then record and document responses.**

Achievements:

Although there were very few requests for information from the EPA, these requests were forwarded to the appropriate commodity specialists (for example methomyl and thiodicarb on sweet corn and head lettuce). As a result of the decision by the National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) to discontinue pesticide use surveys, interaction with the Pennsylvania Division of NASS was limited. Efforts in this area focused on the revision of existing crop profiles with a goal of completing the revision of vegetable profiles first. Funds to continue these efforts were available through an existing Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture grant to the Pesticide Education Program. Dr. Richards attended regional and national meetings and state commodity meetings to maintain her knowledge regarding current pest management issues. Dr. Richards also completed her service as a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Certification Training and Assessment Group. Finally, financial support and coordination of the Northeast Farm Managers Meeting were services provided through the funding of this grant.

- 2. Increase input from stakeholders and develop ongoing interaction with IWGs.**

Achievements:

Although a functional advisory group is no longer required, input from extension educators and commodity specialists were solicited through an existing network of the Pesticide Education Program Advisory Committee. Specifically, through the input of this group it was recommended that an in-service be held to update extension educators and commodity specialists. As a result, Dr. Richards is currently developing a program agenda for an in-service to be held in the spring of 2009. Future projects recommended by the advisory group are the addition of online educational training materials. This potential educational opportunity will be pursued in the next fiscal year.

Richard Johnson from the Penn State Pesticide Education program also serves as an active member of the Community IPM Working Group and has played an integral role in the outreach education effort at the United States Botanical Garden, with the development of educational posters and other outreach efforts.

- 3. Web site will link the PMIC to new and existing partners and serve as a central access for all information that is produced by the PMIC. Web access to this information will**

provide growers and regulatory partners with the most current information to facilitate informed decision making. Update and promote a web site with such items as: SNP contact information, crop profiles, regulatory information, production guides, IPM Problem Solver, and other relative information.

Achievement:

The Pesticide Management Information Center web site was maintained at:

<http://www.pested.psu.edu/infocenter/>

D. RESULTS

1. Serve as the primary information source regarding the use of pesticides and other IPM tactics:

- Processed request for information regarding methomyl and thiodicarb on sweet corn and head lettuce to vegetable and entomology specialists and provided response.
- In cooperation with the Pesticide Education Program, an email mailing list was developed to more specifically target specialists with pesticide safety education responsibilities.
- Attended 2008 Northeast Tri-Agency Regional Meeting.
- Began updating of vegetable crop profiles, pumpkin profile is in final editing, and cabbage, snap beans and sweet corn are in process.
- Reviewed pesticide recommendations for the Berry Production Guide
- Reviewed pesticide recommendations for insecticide labels for 3 crop groups:
 - all cucurbits (cucumbers, muskmelon, pumpkins, -winter-squash, summer-squash, and watermelon),
 - parsnips, and
 - parsley.
- Worked cooperatively with Eric Harrington, Cornell University, to facilitate speakers and pesticide update credits for the Northeast Farm Managers Meeting. Speakers facilitated by Dr. Richards included:
 - Phil Pitzer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Worker Safety Specialist
 - Dave Filson, Penn State University Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator
 - Samuel E. Hayes, Jr, Former Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture

2. Increased input from stakeholders and developed on-going interaction with IWGs

- Feedback from extension educators and university specialists during the Pesticide Education Program Advisory Committee provided suggestions for several areas to emphasize. Most significantly, as a result of their input, an in-service is planned for Spring of 2009 to include topics such as:
 - New product chemistry
 - Bio controls
 - Pesticide registration and food safety

- Richard Johnson from Penn State's Pesticide Education has taken an increasingly active role in working with the Community IPM Working Group. He helped to facilitate the group's participation in an exhibit at the U.S. Botanical Garden which has led to significant requests for the posters that were exhibited. Mr. Johnson continues to work with both the turfgrass and structural sub-groups on several outreach education efforts.

3. Web site

The Pesticide Management Information Network web site (<http://www.pested.psu.edu/infocenter/>) was updated and:

- Includes contact information for the Pennsylvania Pest Management Information Center.
- Includes links to crop production guides, pesticide labels, material safety data sheets, and the Pennsylvania IPM Problem Solver.
- Includes links to the Northeastern IPM Center and other appropriate entities.
- Prominently displays, near the heading, the phrase, "The Pennsylvania component of the Northeastern IPM Center." The words "Northeastern IPM Center" are hyperlinked to the Center web site.
- Includes the statement: "This site is supported, in part, with funding from the Northeastern IPM Center."
- Is compatible with regional and national IPM Center sites.
- Complies with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Additional Work

Dr. Richards continues to work with Agricultural Science instructors in Pennsylvania to provide pest management information and educational materials that can be used in their classrooms. Four sessions were held which targeted pest management in turf and greenhouse settings. Through these efforts, the IPM Management Manuals for Greenhouse Production were distributed to thirty-five schools. During these training sessions, input was solicited from the instructors regarding areas where IPM educational materials are needed. Greenhouse production is the primary area of interest. Instructors also indicated that any materials that helped meet the Pennsylvania State Standards for Environment and Ecology that specifically addressed IPM would be helpful. An additional educational session was provided as part of the Pennsylvania Agriculture In the Classroom program. This session focused primarily on secondary science education.

Outreach education was also provided to non-traditional audiences through library education programs as a take-off on the theme of "Catch the Reading Bug." An additional audience for this type of non-traditional youth education included outreach efforts through farm safety day camps.

E. IMPACTS

Although the number of requests have tapered off considerably, it is still imperative to provide

Richards 2008 SNP Progress

field based information to respond to requests from USDA and EPA regarding the significance of specific pesticide uses. For example, soliciting input from specialists regarding Lannate and Larvin use on sweet corn and lettuce allowed for a response that gave a clearer grower use perspective.

Reviewing pesticide recommendations as requested for the Berry and Vegetable production guide helps to insure that growers are provided with updated and correct information regarding labeled products and rates. This is a time consuming process; however, it is critical to the safe and effective use of these products and production of the crop.

Working cooperatively with the Northeast Farm Managers, agricultural science instructors, and commodity groups to provide educational outreach regarding pest management alternatives is critical to their success as applicators and educators. Initial educational efforts with agricultural science instructors have illustrated a clear need to develop additional programming. These educational efforts not only will help to educate future generations of growers, but also address required educational State Standards that focus on Integrated Pest Management.

Input from the Pesticide Education Program Advisory Committee has helped to identify an educational need for Extension Educator training so that they can provide pest management information to their stakeholders. Funding secured will allow for the delivery of this in-service in the spring of 2009. This funding will allow for participation from all states in the Northeast.

Work with the Community IWG, through the efforts of program colleague Richard Johnson, has lent a hand to their efforts to provide outreach to a wider non-traditional audience.

Maintenance and continued updating of the Pest Management Information Center website will help to facilitate grower access to pest management information.

Additional outreach efforts to similar non-traditional audiences such as libraries and farm safety day camps have increased a demand in these areas. For example, after providing outreach programs to four libraries in Western Pennsylvania and training Master Gardeners to duplicate the training, extension educators and Master Gardeners reached over a dozen additional sites, and they continue to receive outreach requests.