

Center Update

February 1, 2005 - June 8, 2005



FROM THE DIRECTORS

This Update reports the activities and programs of the NC IPM Center, based upon the Center's objectives, to the National IPM Center Steering Committee, the other Regional IPM Center Directors and National Program staff from USDA and EPA. Our companion publication 'NC IPM Center Connection' provides updates on IPM state programs and their successes. We hope you will find both of these publications useful to keep you informed of regional IPM programs accomplishments and opportunities

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARDS NORTH CENTRAL IPM CENTER OBJECTIVE 1

Establish and facilitate a regionally based process for stakeholder identification and prioritization of emerging pest management issues and research, extension and outreach needs to respond to economic, human health, environmental and safety concerns related to pest management practices.

NC 201 IPM COORDINATORS MEET IN ST. LOUIS

The fourth annual meeting of NCR-201 was held in St. Louis April 12 to 13, 2005. NC IPM Center leaders facilitated discussion of the Regional IPM grant and NC IPM Center Implementation grant programs were discussed individually and the possibility of their merger in the future. Expansion possibilities for IPM implementation through NRCS programs offer a great potential in a few states. The SYSCO IPM program also provides another means to implement IPM. The role of the IPM Coordinators with the NC IPM Center was revisited and it was the consensus that the current arrangement of the NC IPM Extension Coordinators serving as the state contacts for the Center is working well.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARDS NORTH CENTRAL IPM CENTER OBJECTIVE 2

Serve as a focal point for collaborative team building to develop, improve, maintain and expand IPM practices in the North Central Region.

PEST MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (PMAP)

From April 26-28, 2005, a technical review panel and a relevancy review panel convened in Washington, D.C., to evaluate proposals submitted to the national PMAP program. Nineteen proposals were submitted from the North Central Region. Mike Gray served on the relevancy review panel. Relevance of a given proposal for the North Central Region was provided through the input of each state IPM Coordinator. Mike provided this feedback during the evaluation process. Relevance constituted 40% of a given proposal's merit.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARDS NORTH CENTRAL IPM CENTER OBJECTIVE 2

Serve as a focal point for collaborative team building to develop, improve, maintain and expand IPM practices in the North Central Region.

WORKING GROUP RFA AND FORMATION

The NC IPM Center established five multi-disciplinary and multi-state Working Groups who will identify and prioritize IPM needs, build partnerships with key stakeholders and address the goals of the National Roadmap for IPM including evaluation of IPM successes. Working Group Leaders met in St Louis April 13 and 14 to provide an update on their goals and objectives and received a list of expectations from IPM Center co-director Larry Olsen. Working Groups met during this quarter to set objectives and workplans.

The **Ornamental Pest Working Group** met March 20, 2005 where they began the development of a survey of greenhouse producers and nurserymen. Mike Gray attended. A next meeting was set for December. They have submitted a proposal to the organizers of the 5th National IPM Symposium for a mini-symposium entitled "Are alternative IPM approaches for greenhouse and nursery pests feasible?" In conjunction with that symposium, they have requested a workshop session for the North Central Ornamental Pest Working Group. The WG is expanding their list of participants, and identifying coordinators for specific activities.

The **Vegetable Working Group** met February 23 in Columbus, OH for their initial meeting to organize and prioritize their efforts. Larry Olsen attended. The Vegetable WG has a web site established at www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~glvwg and a listserv to keep each other informed of events and conditions around the region with over 150 members from 13 states and provinces. A major objective is to assess IPM adoption in various vegetable crops. We have based this survey initially on the Ohio State IPM Elements (<http://ipm.osu.edu/element>), which have been transformed into online surveys (via SurveyMonkey.com). Each survey should take approximately 10 minutes and will be targeted to growers who subscribe to electronic vegetable or pest management newsletters of each GLVWG state. The Project Committee will refine and customize the survey content on October 27th-28th with input from university researchers, specialists, representatives of specific state commodity groups and/or other major stakeholders (e.g. processors). Soon after this meeting we expect to distribute the link to the online IPM surveys and begin collecting data.

Larry Olsen participated in the **Potato Working Group** meeting in Fargo, ND in April. Prior to the initial WG meeting in April 2005, entomologists, pathologists and weed scientists from the WG collaborated with the National Potato Council resistance management committee chaired by Nick Somers (a Wisconsin grower and WG member) to develop Resistance Management Guidelines for critical Pest/Pesticide combinations. The WG collaborations led by Somers resulted in the achievement of this objective 2-3 months ahead of schedule. Final drafts were revised and approved by the full WG as NCR regional recommendations. A breakout session was devoted to updating the 2003 Potato Pest Management Strategic Plan. A revised 2005 PMSP was published as a result.

The **Pulse Crops Working Group** for the Northern Great Plains will address IPM issues and concerns for pulse crops, including dry pea, chickpea, and lentils. The program has established an advisory committee that will draft a profile of priorities for research, education and regulatory issues, following the model of the Pest Management Strategic Plans. This will guide research/education investments and guide future grant opportunities. Initial work toward the development of a pulse crops production manual has been completed and work toward the development of an IPM Field Scouting Manual for pulse crops is planned. The WG is cooperating with a USDA/ CSREES special project entitled *Consortium for Alternative Crops*, a joint effort of SDSU, NDSU and UNL. Joint organizational meetings for the two are planned in July.

The **Evaluation/Measurement Working Group**, led by Carol Pilcher, will measure the impacts of IPM consistently on a regional level. First, they are collaborating with the IPM Extension Coordinators to develop a regional IPM program evaluation. Second, they are collaborating with the other four Working Groups on survey tools to measure the adoption of IPM. Carol attended the WG leaders meeting in April to discuss program evaluation and measurement. She provided WG leaders tips on measuring IPM successes and preparing and delivering surveys. In addition, individual consultations were conducted to develop a working relationship to assist with evaluation efforts.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARDS NORTH CENTRAL IPM CENTER OBJECTIVE 2 (CONTINUED)

IPM IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

The North Central IPM Center announced the availability of \$350,000 for a new IPM extension and education granting program. These regional funds provide support for IPM demonstration/ implementation projects or measurement of adoption of new IPM tactics and systems. Twenty three proposals were peer reviewed by an external review panel and, with the endorsement of the Steering Committee, five proposals were funded:

1. Putting Sooty Blotch-Flyspeck Warning System into Practice (Mark Gleason, Iowa State);

2. Development of Regionally-Based Educational Materials for Ornamental IPM (Michael Brewer, Michigan State University);
3. Implementation of Integrated Pest Management in Commercial Lawn Care (Parwinder Grewal, Ohio State University);
4. IPM Implementation in Home Vegetable Gardens (Celeste Welty, Ohio State University); and
5. Field Demonstration and Evaluation of Corn Rootworm Risk Management Tool (Brian Brandt, American Farmland Trust).

IR-4

The NC IPM Center continues to interact and participate with the NC Region IR-4 Center. Larry Olsen attended the IR-4 Strategic Planning Conference on Feb 15-16 representing the NC IPM Center. We continue to provide our priorities for minor crop pesticides needs to the IR-4 program as they are learned from the Pest Management Strategic Planning meetings.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARDS NORTH CENTRAL IPM CENTER OBJECTIVE 3

Enhance the ability of the land-grant system and USDA to provide IPM users, researchers, governmental agencies, and the public with the information and knowledge they need to increase IPM adoption and reduce unreasonable adverse environmental effects from pests and the use of pest management practices.

INFORMATION REQUESTS AND RESPONSES

In the past three months, the NC IPM Center has received eight requests for information. The requests were for azinphos-methyl, bulk storage containers, chloroneb, EBDC, malathion on Michigan blueberries, TCVP, streptomycin/ oxytetracyclin, and on-going fumigant cluster conference calls. Requests are sent to the State IPM Coordinators and they in turn ask their specialists to respond. Lynnae Jess assembles these responses into one regional response and sends these to OPMP and the EPA.

movie was created on CD. Since October, 2004 an additional 34 sites have used the training as an educational resource. We received nearly 600 program evaluations and the overwhelming majority found the information extremely useful. To date we have distributed 250 CDs of the Sudden Oak Death Training.

SOYBEAN RUST ALERT WIDELY DISTRIBUTED

Since the confirmation of soybean rust in the continental United States, 100,000 pest alerts have been distributed in English. In October, 2004 a Spanish version was produced. To date, a total of 500,000 National Pest Alerts for Soybean Rust have been printed (475,000 in English and 25,000 in Spanish). The North Central and Southern IPM Centers coordinated USDA-CSREES sponsorship of six individuals who participated in the Brazil Soybean Rust Workshop in February. Currently, two training videos are in production. The first video will instruct viewers how to scout soybean fields for soybean rust and the second video will provide information regarding fungicide applications. Both of these videos will be released in June on the NC IPM Center web site and on CD.

PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM EDUCATE TO DETECT (PRED) PROGRAM

The National Plant Diagnostic Network, the National Plant Board, the USDA Forest Service, USDA-APHIS, and the IPM Centers coordinated the October 26, 2004 National Training *Phytophthora ramorum* Educate to Detect (PRED) Program. Forty states participated in this program and directed the training to master gardeners, extension and regulatory personnel and diagnosticians. The PRED presentation was recorded and a Quicktime

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARDS NORTH CENTRAL IPM CENTER OBJECTIVE 3 (CONTINUED)

CORN ROOTWORM MANAGEMENT: SITUATION, ISSUES & OPTIONS TRAINING TELECONFERENCES

On February 4 and 11, 2005 two teleconferences entitled: "Corn Rootworm Management: Situation, Issues & Options" were held and attracted over 750 participants from nine states in the North Central Region. Prior to the first training teleconference, participants were asked to complete a survey designed to evaluate their current knowledge of corn rootworm biology and management options. Following the second training session, participants were asked to complete a second questionnaire to assess the educational value of the training teleconferences. These surveys objectively showed an increase in knowledge, which indicates the value of continued, in-depth educational sessions to improve pest management decisions by producers. Only half of the participants indicated they scout and use economic thresholds to make treatment decisions for corn rootworm, with half citing that this pest creates management problems every year. However, almost all participants indicated the training teleconferences were worth their time and will assist them in making more informed decisions.

THE NORTH CENTRAL IPM CENTER CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

The North Central IPM Center Connections newsletter has been broadly distributed to the IPM community programs for one year. It is used to share regional successes, notify individuals of upcoming training and provides information on IPM related resources. We have received positive comments regarding numerous articles from the past issues.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARDS NORTH CENTRAL IPM CENTER OBJECTIVE 4

Ensure accountability and leadership for proper management and distribution of Center resources.

AES DIRECTORS LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IPM CENTER

Mike Gray made a presentation at the North Central Agricultural Experiment Station Directors meeting in Columbus, OH on April 7. He responded to questions about the North Central Region IPM Center and shared information with the Directors regarding IPM funding (through the Center) that has gone to their respective states. Many favorable comments regarding Center linkages with IPM Coordinators were received.

MID-TERM CENTER REVIEW

The Co-Directors are assisting CSREES in planning the mid-term review of each of the Regional IPM Centers which will occur next February. An external review panel will evaluate the programs and accomplishments of each Center, and offer suggestions to increase the effectiveness of each Center.

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