

Update on Western IPM Center Workgroups 9/29/06

Newly Funded Work Group

Western Region School IPM Implementation Work Group – Dawn Gouge, University of Arizona.

Objectives: Multi-state work group that has collaborators from Arizona, Oregon, Washington and Montana. This working group will create a focal point for interactive communication and collaboration by school IPM stakeholders and change agents throughout the West. The work group will facilitate multi-organizational collaborative partnerships, identify innovative funding sources, identify effective IPM implementation strategies and barriers to IPM adoption and discuss development of a quality standard for school IPM. It will create a forum through which more established program leaders can share their experience and resources with colleagues in other states.

Existing Work Groups

Pacific Northwest Work Group – Catherine Daniels, Washington State University

Activities: This work group has participants from the states of Idaho, Oregon, Alaska, Montana, Washington, Utah and Nevada. The work group presented a poster describing PNW Work group efforts at the April 2006 National IPM Symposium held in St. Louis. All states had members in attendance and all members participated in organized discussions about IPM projects with representatives from other states as well as Canada. Currently members are working on a project to enhance the PNW Pest Management Handbooks. These handbooks are widely used throughout a multi-state region and are an excellent vehicle for improving IPM education efforts.

Member states Washington and Idaho, as well as the Director and Associate Director of the WIPMC, attended a joint meeting with the Regional 406 Water Quality Team, based in EPA Region 10. The outcome of the meeting was that a joint ad hoc committee was formed to further investigate programming efforts between WQ and IPM. The ad hoc committee is currently assisting the Water Quality Team in planning a county agent training opportunity in October 2006. The approach is through water quality, but the emphasis is on IPM efforts. Another meeting of the ad hoc committee and the full WQ Team is planned for November, 2006 at which time they will investigate the utility of forming a more permanent regional WQ-IPM Work Group.

In May 2006 a similar approach was explored with the 406 Food Safety (FS) staff in Washington D.C. The grant PI requested a meeting with the FS National Program Leader in order to obtain information for the PNW Workgroup on the likeliness of fit of an IPM-FS project. The information indicated any joint efforts were unlikely so the PNW Work group decided to table the Food Safety effort.

Western IPM Center Work Group on Weather Systems – Walter Mahaffee, Oregon State University

Activities: This work group has representatives from Oregon, California, and Washington who represent federal agencies, universities, and private industry. The group's purpose has fully evolved to be the development of knowledge and methods to expand access to, and use of weather data, forecasts and models to enhance the precision and sustainability of agriculture producer decisions and future expansion to other societal uses. Various collaborations of group members have been successful in obtaining competitive and noncompetitive funding to address components of the work group vision. The groups were awarded \$650,000 from the USDA-CSREES Plant Biosecurity program to examine the uncertainties and errors involved in predictions and forecasts and develop a high resolution, spatially explicit approach to reduce these uncertainties. The work group also hosted a CSREES site visit to assess the group's capabilities and vision for the development of a national IPM decision support system. The work group is planning on recruiting new members from other states in the Western IPM region not currently within the group.

The Western Region Structural Pest IPM Work Group – Carrie Foss, Washington State University

Activities: This work group has been formed that includes university specialists, state regulatory staff, professional applicators and inspectors representing many western region states. The work group has been instrumental in the development of the Structural Pest IPM Program and the 2007 IPM curriculum, and helped to prioritize research efforts for the facility. The first training workshop of the Western Regional Structural Pest Research and Demonstration Facility where inspectors and pest managers will be trained in the identification of structural pests, conditions conducive to pest infestations and IPM is occurring the week of October 2, 2006. Participants of this training hail from several states within the west including California, Arizona, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and possibly Colorado and New Mexico.

Crop Insect Losses and Impact Assessment working Group – Peter Ellsworth, University of Arizona

Activities: These data and this Work Group serve to address any Federal, regional, state, and local requests for information on the impact of insects or insecticides on cotton, melons and lettuce in Arizona and the low deserts of California. As coordinator of the Arid Southwest IPM Network (another Western IPM Center – funded project), Al Fournier uses these data to respond to federal pesticide information requests for the crops involved. We had numerous informal requests for information in 2005 and 2006, and one formal request by the Arizona cotton Growers Association to present comparative data on Bt versus non-Bt cottons on a continual basis.

What makes these data unique with respect to pesticide (and IPM) policy is that they are directly measuring the “intent” of each insecticide input. That is, stakeholders are asked to identify the specific intent or intended target or targets of their management decisions and inputs. So in addition to the rich quantitative data collected in this exercise, they also have unique qualitative insights into the decision-making experience of the pest manager. These insights help to guide existing and new programs of research, implementation and IPM outreach. The work group has received additional leveraged dollars for the coming year from the University of Arizona to continue this work and they are planning to expand into a new crop (alfalfa) in the coming year.

Work groups that end January 2007

Small Fruits Work Group – Tom Peerbolt, Peerbolt Consulting, Oregon

IPM Consequences of Herbicide Tolerant and Insect Resistant Crops – Patrick Byrne, Colorado State University

Final reports for these two work groups are due January 1, 2007.