

Northeast IPM Center Participation by the NYS IPM Program

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Abstract: NYS IPM Program staff were involved with five of the six Northeast IPM Center's working groups in 2004. This involvement included serving as co-chairs of three of the working groups. Important activities included organization of the first Northeast IPM Conference in March 2005, the development of resource databases for community IPM and agricultural commodities, and surveying stakeholders.

The Northeast IPM Center is a major vehicle for implementing IPM (including the distribution of USDA funds) in the northeastern United States. The Center utilizes IPM professionals and practitioners throughout the northeast to assist in its mission. To facilitate this, six working groups have been established by the Center. In 2004, members of the NYS IPM Program served on five (Community, Greenhouse/Ornamentals, Livestock/Field Crops, Public Health, and Vegetables) of these working groups. In three of the groups (Community, Livestock/Field Crops, and Public Health), NYS IPM Program staff were co-chairs.

The Community IPM Working Group has been intimately involved in organizing the Center's first northeast IPM conference. This meeting, to be held in Manchester, NH on March 15 and 16, 2005, will focus on Community IPM themes. Plenary speakers will address the status of IPM in the promotion of sustainable landscaping, the control of invasive species, structural pest management, and issues at the agriculture-urban interface. Conference symposia and workshops will address a wide range of community IPM themes. Topics are curriculum development, residential education, structural IPM, school IPM, turf IPM, media outreach, landscape IPM, invasive species, public health, wildlife IPM, and the agriculture/urban interface. A trade show and a poster session are also being organized. For more information on the conference, visit http://northeastipm.org/conference2005_index.cfm

The Livestock and Field Crops Working Group developed and beta tested in 2004 a prototype of a stakeholder survey on research and extension priorities. Feedback helped to make the survey more commodity specific and tailor a list of common pests. Hard copies of the survey will be distributed to growers through cooperating extension and industry personnel. Additionally, Spider Graphics, an Ithaca, NY based web design company, created an interactive PDF prototype based on the draft survey. This will allow stakeholders to provide input on-line. Another feature of the on-line version is the automatic generation of summary reports. The Working Group plans to refine the prototype to allow individual crops and specific pests to be addressed.

The Public Health IPM Working Group is focused on the promotion of IPM for pests of public health significance. Goals include defining IPM for public health pests, developing IPM guidelines, and encouraging the adoption of IPM in public health pest management. The working group provides educational resources, guidelines, and practical tools for use by communities in developing management strategies. In 2004 the group developed and published a list of priorities for research and outreach in the area of integrated vector and pest management. This list is published on the website of the Northeast IPM Center. Additionally, a list of resources that can be accessed on the Internet was created. This list includes fact sheets, databases, peer reviewed and journal publications, internet websites, search engines that all relate to public health IPM. The public health work group also helped to host a symposium titled "Integrated Pest

Management for Vector Borne Diseases” at the September 2004 Society of Vector Ecology meeting in Boston, Mass.

The vegetable IPM work group has set priorities for vegetable projects http://northeastipm.org/work_vegetable.cfm in the northeast and is in the process of developing a Pest Management Strategic Plan for sweet corn.

NYS IPM Program staff have also worked closely with Center staff to create comprehensive web-based resource databases for community IPM and agricultural commodities in the northeast. Resources included in these databases are various types of publications, demonstration and research projects, and web sites. To access the databases, go to http://northeastipm.org/ipm_searchform.cfm