

## **1. The New Pest, Production and Profitability Program-Triple P-2004**

### **2. Project Leader:**

Kevin Ganoë: Field Crops Area CCE Educator–Cornell University

Ken Wise: Eastern NYS IPM Program Area Educator, Livestock and Field Crops –Cornell University

### **3. Type of Project:**

Training Practitioners to use IPM techniques

### **4. Project location:**

Herkimer, Otsego, Montgomery and Fulton Counties

### **5. Abstract:**

The Pest, Production and Profitability (Triple-P) program was designed to be an extension of the traditional TAg program. The purpose of the ~~Triple-P~~ program is to provide past TAg participants with more in-depth information about IPM and ICM. As with a TAg team a Triple-P team would meet at different farms every 2 to 3 weeks to discuss pest and crop management issues for that time of the season. The Triple-P team consisted of 6 field crop producers in Herkimer, Otsego, Montgomery and Hamilton Counties. We conducted 6 meeting and discussed a wide range of topics relative to field corn, alfalfa, and forage grasses. The growers in this Triple-P team own and manage 2,500 acres of corn, alfalfa, grasses, soybeans and other field crops. There is the potential to implement the IPM and ICM practices taught to these acres of field crops in their farming systems.

### **5. Background and justification:**

The TAg program has traditionally been a training program for growers over the course of one crop season. Once the TAg program has been completed growers were discouraged from attending the same program the next season. In many cases growers that have attended TAg program want to obtain more detailed field crop management information. A logical evolution of the program is to develop an advanced training program in Integrated Field Crop and Pest Management for TAg graduates. The purpose of the new Pest, Production and Profitability (Triple-P) program is to train past TAg participants in more in-depth information about IPM and ICM. Since this was the trial year for the program we conducted only one Triple-P team in the St. Johnsville, NY area (Herkimer, Otsego, Montgomery and Hamilton Counties).

### **6. Objectives:**

- ⌚ Design and implement a Triple-P Program.
- ⌚ Develop a list of crop and pest management topics to teach.
- ⌚ Conduct a set of field meeting every 3 to 4 weeks at the grower's farms.
- ⌚ Evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

### **6. Procedures:**

Kevin Ganoe organized a group of growers in the St. Johnsville, NY area (Herkimer, Otsego, Montgomery and Hamilton Counties) that had benefited from the TAG program in 2003. At the end of the TAG program the growers stated that they would like to continue to learn more about IPM and ICM in 2004. Kevin Ganoe continued to meet with the growers over the winter to discuss certain issues. In April Kevin and I met with the growers and asked if they would like to have an advanced TAG style program (Triple-P). They stated they would like more in-depth information in IPM and ICM for field corn, alfalfa, and other crops over the course of the summer. We met every 3 to 4 weeks starting in May and ending in August. The following is a list of subjects taught in the Triple-P meetings.

### **May Meeting (Classroom)**

#### **Corn**

- ⌚ Soil Management Issues: Compaction
- ⌚ Planting Consideration
- ⌚ Nutrient Deficiencies
- ⌚ Corn Diseases and Management

### **Late May Meeting**

#### **Alfalfa**

- ⌚ Alfalfa Quality Management
- ⌚ Weed Identification
- ⌚ Harvest management (Narrow Swath vs. Wide Swath)
- ⌚ Alfalfa Disease Identification and Management
- ⌚ Alfalfa Early Insect Pest Management

#### **Grasses**

- ⌚ Grass Identification and Differences in Quality
- ⌚ Grass Harvest Management

#### **Field Corn**

- ⌚ Assessment of Corn Seedling Health

### **Early June Meeting**

#### **Field Corn**

- ⌚ Stage of Corn Growth and Plant Parts
- ⌚ Importance of Growing Degree Days in Corn Development
- ⌚ Conducting Stand Counts
- ⌚ Weed Identification
- ⌚ Early Season Corn Insect Pest Management
- ⌚ Discussion of Seed Treatments for Corn Rootworm
- ⌚ Soil Issues: Crusting, Cultivation and Soil Compaction
- ⌚ Identification of Herbicide Injury
- ⌚ Management of Early Season Corn Diseases

### **July Meeting**

#### **Field Corn**

- ⌚ Soil Conservation: No-tillage vs. Conventional Tillage Methods in Corn
- ⌚ Crop Health Assessment and Issues

### **Early August Meeting**

#### **Field Corn**

- ⌚ Evaluate Starter Fertilizer Trial in Corn
- ⌚ Importance of Soil Testing

### **Late August Meeting**

#### **Other Crops**

## **7. Results and discussion:**

The Triple-P team attended and appreciated all of the educational meetings. There was always a lot of discussion about crop and pest management issues during the meetings. We had intended to conduct pre and post-evaluations of knowledge. While we did conduct a pre-test (40 percent correct) there was no post-test given. The growers in this Triple-P team own and manage 2,500 acres of corn, alfalfa, grasses, soybeans and other field crops. There is the potential to implement the advanced IPM and ICM practices taught on these acres of field crops in their farming systems.

In the future it is essential that Triple-P programs conduct pre-test and post-test evaluations to be document the usefulness of the training conducted. There should also be an exit survey to determine what ICM and IPM practices they plan to use in their farming operations.