

New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides & Alternative Strategies: **Project Objectives and Corresponding Report of Progress**

Objective A. Improve Knowledge, Awareness, and Understanding of Pest Management Practices

Objective A.1: Crop Profiles - Crop profiles for apples, carrots, green pepper, and wheat in New Jersey will be researched and written. The previously published crop profiles for asparagus, cranberry, blueberry, alfalfa, peaches, and squash will be reviewed and revised.

Progress A.1: Crop Profiles - Attachment 1 provides a revised schedule for completion of all crop profiles under the NJinPAS project. **Attachment 2** provides a summary of the five new and seven revised crop profiles to be produced for New Jersey under the NJinPAS project. This summary identifies the 'crop profiler', their technical affiliation, and contact information; as well as the proposed schedule for completion of the draft profiles and their technical review.

NJinPAS issued an informal Request for Proposal for the development of Crop Profiles for apple, carrot, green pepper, and wheat to Extension Specialists and County Agricultural Agents on August 1, 2001. We selected appropriate commodity specialists to produce crop profiles for apples, green pepper, and carrot for New Jersey. At the direction of the NJinPAS Advisory Committee, no award was made for completion of a wheat profile. Instead, it was agreed that field corn was of higher priority for New Jersey, and should be substituted for wheat. In addition to these four crop profiles, a fifth crop profile for eggplant in New Jersey has been initiated, and will be submitted to the NE PMC when completed.

Accordingly, the NJinPAS Project Leader issued letters of award on November 26th to candidates selected to complete crop profiles for apple, carrot, green pepper, and eggplant. We also issued a letter of tentative award on November 26th to a prospective candidate to complete the newly identified crop profile for field corn. The letters outlined the key elements of a crop profile required (as modified after Burr); useful resources; schedule for completion; technical review requirements; and the publication process for the draft and final crop profiles.

Crop Profiles for apple and green pepper are currently on schedule and are projected for submission by June 2002. The crop profile for eggplant has been initiated and is scheduled for completion by March 2003. Private pesticide applicators have furnished their current usage records that will be evaluated in each of these three crop profiles. The data was compiled and categorized into an Excel spreadsheet for each commodity to facilitate analysis.

Staff assembled selected data for the green pepper, apple, and eggplant for use in these profiles; data collected included 1997 State pesticide usage, Section 24C and Section 18 registration information for New Jersey, and both commodity and State statistics from the National Agricultural Statistics Service for 1997.

Further, we compiled and furnished awardees an assortment of templates and guidelines for profile production based on other crop profiles we have produced for New Jersey. This includes several Internet database queries/search engines that may be utilized to locate pesticide registrations and Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4) projects for specific commodities. Standard sources for production data and pesticide recommendations were also provided. Finally, we set up a closed listserv for all 'crop profilers' so that they could discuss and share crop profile production issues and solutions.

The crop profiles for carrot and field corn are scheduled for completion by March 2003. Since there was no pesticide usage data collected for carrot in 1997, the 'crop profiler' is working directly with local growers to compile usage data. Additionally, integrated pest management scouts have increased monitoring of carrot fields in New Jersey in response to this need and a recent severe pest problem.

Seven recently published crop profiles (asparagus, blueberry, cranberry, forage alfalfa, peaches, spinach, and squash) are scheduled for review and revision once pesticide usage data for 2001 is available from

the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Forage alfalfa is an addition to our original proposal of completion of six revised crop profiles. Since it is probable that data will not be released until late 2002, we have scheduled these revisions for completion in 2003.

Objective A.2: Pest Management Strategic Plans - Transition strategies to new pest management systems for certain commodities in the mid-Atlantic region may be needed as pesticides registered for use may no longer be available. One Pest Management Strategic Plan will be developed within the proposed NJinPAS project duration of three years.

Progress A.2: Pest Management Strategic Plans - Although the NJinPAS Advisory Committee will prioritize future candidate commodities, we determined that peaches was the first commodity to be addressed in the Pest Management Strategic Plan (PMSP) that will be produced for this project. We have scheduled the first internal draft of the plan to be completed by March 2003. **Attachment 1** provides a revised schedule for completion of the Peaches PMSP under the NJinPAS project. Specifically, we have added a PMSP Workgroup meeting to the process based upon the suggestion of the NE PMC. NJinPAS will coordinate the arrangements for this meeting in 2003 and insure that appropriate Federal and/or NE PMC partners are involved.

NJinPAS Project Leader George Hamilton made arrangements to work with Dr. Peter Shearer to serve as the New Jersey Peaches PMSP Workgroup Leader since he is an Extension Specialist in Tree Fruit Entomology, as well as the New Jersey representative to the Eastern Peaches PMSP Workgroup.

NJinPAS initially issued a letter of invitation on October 15, 2001 to seven commodity and technical specialists to participate in the Peaches PMSP Work Group. The letter outlined the objectives of the NJinPAS as well as the Peaches PMSP for New Jersey. Subsequent to input from the NE PMC, we made tentative arrangements with two local peach growers and IR-4 to also participate in this PMSP Workgroup. Accordingly, NJinPAS issued a letter of invitation to these individuals on November 21, 2001. **Attachment 3** provides a list of invited Workgroup participants, their technical affiliation, and contact information; as well as their area of concern. Nine of the eleven individuals invited have tentatively agreed to participate in the Workgroup. Once all responses are received, NJinPAS will issue a letter of confirmation with detailed information on the PMSP.

NJinPAS compiled Peaches PMSP Workgroup information into a database, and created a closed listserv so participants could discuss and share PMSP production issues and solutions.

The NJinPAS Advisory Committee met on November 16th and discussed the commodities to be prioritized for development of Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSP) for New Jersey. It was agreed that a PMSP for Peaches should be completed as planned.

The Advisory Committee suggested that carrot would be the next likely candidate for a PMSP for New Jersey. In the interim, Rutgers Cooperative Extension integrated pest management scouts will work with local carrot growers in monitoring pest activity during the growing season, and work will be initiated on a crop profile for carrots in preparation of the planned PMSP. The Extension Vegetable IPM Coordinator is working through our IR-4 liaison, Gerry Ghidui to assess and formulate a pest management strategy for a severe pest problem that occurred in carrot this growing season. It is hoped that IR-4 can help find an appropriate strategy that could be incorporated in the planned PMSP for carrot.

Objective A.3: Social, Economic, and Environmental Impacts - The development of information regarding the social, economic, and environmental impacts of using specific pest management practices is not currently planned under the NJinPAS.

Progress A.3: Social, Economic, and Environmental Impacts -The NJinPAS Advisory Committee was consulted during their November 16, 2001 meeting for direction on studying the social, economic, and environmental impacts of using specific pest management practices, including pesticides and alternatives to pesticides. The Committee directed that economic impact analyses should be wholly included into Pest Management Strategy Plans. Accordingly, NJinPAS Project Leader George Hamilton

issued a letter of invitation to an Extension Specialist in Farm Management to serve on the Peaches PMSP Workgroup. Response by the Specialist, Dr. Robin Brumfield, is pending as the invitation letter was just issued on November 25th.

Although the Committee acknowledged the importance of environmental impacts of pest management practices, the only issue specifically addressed in the Committee meeting was that of endangered species. There was concern that growers would be unable to easily access information on the location of endangered species. NJinPAS will investigate the steps necessary to receive location-specific information on endangered species. This information will be posted to the appropriate NJinPAS listservs, and an NJinPAS webpage (to be created).

Social impacts of pest management practices were not determined by the NJinPAS Advisory Committee to be a current objective for New Jersey stakeholders. This component may be further developed in later phases of the project.

Objective A.4: Surveys – The NJinPAS will facilitate the collection and analysis of data pertaining to the use and usage of specific pest management tactics in New Jersey, including pesticides.

Progress A.4: Surveys - The information collected by this on-going project will be used directly in the creation of crop profiles under NJinPAS. In addition, information collected by the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service pesticide surveys will be accessed for use in developing crop profiles and pest management strategic plans.

Objective B. Facilitate Informed Decision-Making on Pest Management Practices

Objective B.1: Advisory Committee - An advisory committee will be assembled to guide the activities of the New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides & Alternative Strategies.

Progress B.1: Advisory Committee – NJinPAS identified a preliminary roster of thirty-four parties representative of New Jersey stakeholders to serve as Advisors. NJinPAS Project Leader George Hamilton issued a letter of invitation on October 12, 2001. The letter outlined the project's objectives and goals in an attached 'NJinPAS Summary', and announced an annual meeting for the Advisory Committee. **Attachment 1** provides a revised schedule for the annual meetings planned for the Advisory Committee.

Attachment 4 provides a complete list of organizations and individuals solicited to participate in the Advisory Committee. Invitees included: representatives from Rutgers Cooperative Extension; research faculty of the Rutgers University College of Agriculture and Environmental Science; New Jersey State government partners including the Pesticide Control Program of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture; IR-4; commodity organizations; grower groups; a pesticide registrant; and public and environmental interest groups.

NJinPAS has assembled an Advisory Committee comprised of twenty-nine New Jersey stakeholders representing a diversity of perspectives and technical expertise. Specifically, this Committee includes representatives from agricultural and horticultural industry (34 %); Extension (31%); University researchers (14%); environmental and public interest groups (10 %); and State government (10%).

In August we finalized facility and parking accommodations for the first annual meeting of the Advisory Committee. Eighteen of the members of the Advisory Committee participated in the meeting held on November 16, 2001 from 9 am to approximately 12:30 pm at the Cook Campus Student Center in New Brunswick, New Jersey. NJinPAS Project Leader George Hamilton opened the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation of the history and objectives for the NJinPAS project. We provided attendees handouts including an agenda, slide outline, 'NJinPAS Summary', project schedule, listserv enrollment forms, and website development information.

Any issues discussed at the meeting that will impact the objectives or procedures for the NJinPAS project have been incorporated into this progress report.

NJinPAS compiled Advisory Committee contact information into a database, and set up a closed listserv for their use to facilitate discussion and decision-making.

Objective B.2: Coordination and Communication with Other Programs - The New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides & Alternative Strategies will coordinate its activities with State and regional stakeholders.

Progress B.2: Coordination and Communication with Other Programs - NJinPAS has coordinated its activities on NJinPAS with mid-Atlantic partners Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and New York. This has further included coordination with regional integrated pest management (IPM), pesticide applicator training (PAT), and IR-4 programs. This coordination was mainly done via a meeting held in conjunction with Northeast Triagency meeting held in San Juan, PR on August 21 – August 23, 2001.

Based upon feedback from the NJinPAS Advisory Committee, web and email postings are preferable to announce the availability of pesticide surveys, crop profiles, and pest management strategy plans. Accordingly, we recently set up four closed listservs for cooperators to facilitate transmission of information and discussion of issues in a timely manner as follows:

- *NJinPAS Advisory Committee* (for New Jersey State coordination).
- *NJinPAS Crop Profiles* (for New Jersey 'Crop Profilers').
- *NJinPAS Peaches PMSP* (for the New Jersey Peaches PMSP Workgroup).
- *NJinPAS Partners* (for regional coordination; includes mid-Atlantic partner States). The participants in this listserv are provided as **Attachment 5**.

Objective B.3: Link to Federal Partners - Links will be established between federal partners and agricultural researchers, extension specialists, and other stakeholders so that information on pest management practices can be made available to federal partners in a timely manner in response to issues raised by FQPA or other regulatory decisions. Regulatory agencies need to know how pesticides are used in the State so they can make informed decisions rather than relying on "worse case" scenarios.

Progress B.3: Link to Federal Partners – A web page establishing NJinPAS (listed as Pesticide Impact Assessment – name suggested by Advisory Committee in order to not confuse clientele) on the Pest Management Office web site has been established and made available to all involved partners. As new materials are developed by this project they will be added to the NJinPAS section of the website. Yet to be established is a page listing New Jersey Extension Specialists by commodity and discipline. Once this is completed, Federal partners will be provided with the URL to this page.

Objective B.4: Sub-Regional Commodity Working Groups -Sub-Regional Commodity Working Groups will be established under the NJinPAS.

Progress B.4: Development of Sub-Regional Commodity Working Groups -The NJinPAS Advisory Committee was advised that the NE PMC will not establish regional Commodity Working Groups as originally planned. Accordingly, NJinPAS advised the NJinPAS Advisory Committee of this change in original objectives, and did not establish sub-regional commodity working groups.

Objective C. Enhance Productivity and Global Competitiveness

Objective C.1: Compliance Advisories and Assistance to Stakeholders - The current communication system will be improved to deliver pesticide regulatory information to researchers, extension educators, growers, crop consultants, pesticide users and other stakeholders in the State.

Growers and pesticide users need to know of anticipated changes in pesticide registrations so they can voice their concerns before decisions are made final. These stakeholders need to know of the outcomes of regulatory decisions so they can modify their cropping practices to retain a competitive edge.

Progress C.1: Compliance Advisories and Assistance to Stakeholders - Based upon feedback from the NJinPAS Advisory Committee, web and email postings are preferable to announce the availability of pesticide surveys, crop profiles, and pest management strategy plans (as opposed to the originally proposed publication in appropriate editions of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension *Plant & Pest Advisory*).

Accordingly, NJinPAS has innovated a listserv infrastructure for these announcements, and to distribute information from the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Pesticide Control Program. This first required the creation of a preliminary database of NJinPAS stakeholders. This 'Network' database includes Extension specialists and agents, mid-Atlantic partner States, Federal partners, commodity organizations, grower cooperatives, industry, County Commissions, and New Jersey State agency partners.

We inaugurated the 'Network' listserv on October 31, 2001 with the posting of the 'NJinPAS Summary' to approximately 140 recipients Statewide. This posting also announced the availability of several topical listserv subgroups for open enrollment:

- *NJinPAS Interiors and Institutions;*
- *NJinPAS Mosquito;*
- *NJinPAS Vegetable;*
- *NJinPAS Field and Forage Crops,*
- *NJinPAS Fruit; and*
- *NJinPAS Turf, Ornamentals, Greenhouse, and Nursery.*

We have used the 'Network' listserv to transmit pesticide notices, compliance advisories, and requests for comment. Although this allows NJinPAS to directly reach stakeholders in a much more timely manner, it does not replace the existing coordination and cooperation between stakeholders such as Extension Specialists, Agents, and growers or landscapers.

The availability of the listservs and the Pest Management Office web site is currently provided to all applicators that attend initial pesticide training. Applicators are encouraged to sign up for the e-mail list for notices of additions to the web site.

When appropriate, pesticide regulatory information will be presented at the New Jersey Agribusiness Association's annual meeting held every November/December. This was done for 2001 at the Association's annual meeting held on November 28, 2001.

Objective C.2: Consumer Education - Currently, there is no planned consumer education component of the NJinPAS.

Progress C.2: Consumer Education - The NJinPAS Advisory Committee was consulted for direction on consumer education needs in New Jersey. This was not determined by the Committee to be a current objective for New Jersey stakeholders. This component may be further developed in later phases of the project.