

**New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides & Alternative Strategies
Advisory Committee Meeting
November 3, 2004**

Attendees:

Karen Anderson, Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey
George Hamilton, Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Pest Management Office
Patricia Hastings, RCE Pest Management Office
Zane Helsel, Extension Directors' Representative to the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center
Joseph Mahar, RCE Pest Management Office; (Rutgers Vegetable IPM Scouting Program)
James Johnson, RCE of Cumberland County
Audrey Moore, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 2
Jane Nogaki, NJ Environmental Federation
Carl Nordstrom, New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association
Nancy Sadlon, Alliance for Environmental Concerns
Carl Schulze, New Jersey Department of Agriculture; Division of Plant Industry
Philip Traino, Vegetable Growers' Association of New Jersey, Inc.

The meeting was begun at 9:20 am. Following a brief introduction, Project Director George Hamilton outlined what would be discussed and began the meeting. *Handout: NJinPAS Advisory Committee Agenda.*

Membership – George relayed that effective July 1, 2004, Rod Schmidt of the Middlesex Mosquito Control Office resigned from the Advisory Committee due to retirement. He introduced Nancy Sadlon of the Alliance for Environmental Concerns as a new member since the last meeting of the Advisory Committee; (she was invited to join the Advisory Committee in correspondence dated January 30, 2003). Nancy explained that the Alliance represents all sectors of pesticide applicators. The group then discussed the membership of the Mid-Atlantic Information Network for Pesticides & Alternative Strategies group (MAINPAS). *Handouts: Current NJinPAS Advisory Committee Address List and MAINPAS Address List.*

Crop Profiles: Pat Hastings discussed published Crop Profiles for New Jersey for reference in determining future crops to be profiled (*listing and dates added below for reference*). She directed the group see the NJinPAS for a current listing of completed and pending crop profiles for New Jersey. *Handouts: NJinPAS Summary; and NJinPAS Project Schedule submitted with 2004 grant proposal.*

Crop profiles for New Jersey that were published prior to the 2003 Advisory Committee meeting are listed below. Some of these documents pre-date the establishment of NJinPAS under the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center.

1. apples 2001 data (posted 5/28/02): 711 downloads this year.
2. asparagus 1997 data (10/04/00): 637 downloads this year.
3. draft blueberry 1997 data (12/01/00): 1,346 downloads this year
4. carrot 2002 data (posted 2/25/03): 852 downloads this year.
5. cranberry 1997 data: 990 downloads this year.
6. field corn (posted 2/24/03): 897 downloads this year.
7. peaches 1998 data: 566 downloads this year.
8. spinach 1997 data (10/01/01): 576 downloads this year.
9. squash 1998 data (published 8/00): 1,127 downloads this year.

Since the last Advisory Committee meeting in September 2003, the following additional Crop Profiles for New Jersey were submitted to the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center and then published to the NJinPAS website:

10. alfalfa 2000 data (profile published 11/21/03): 458 downloads this year.
11. asparagus 2000 data (profile published 11/25/03): 237 downloads this year.
12. cranberry 2000 data (published 12/02/03): 428 downloads this year.
13. eggplant 2000 data (published 1/30/04): 1,921 downloads this year.
14. peaches 2002 data (profile published 9/29/03): 1,814 downloads this year.
15. spinach 2000 data (profile published 11/21/03): 581 downloads this year.
16. squash 2002 data (profile published 11/21/03): 897 downloads this year.

Pat Hastings reported that new crop profiles for tomato, honey bees, kale, and sweet potato are scheduled for completion in year 1 under the NEIPMC grant. She added that the honey bee profile is out for final review and the profiles for sweet potato and kale are in various stages of development. George Hamilton added that crop profiles for blueberries and peppers proposed in previous grants will be completed shortly, and that profiles for cucumbers and pumpkins will be proposed to be developed in year 2 under the NEIPMC grant.

The Committee was asked for future candidates for crop profiles for New Jersey. Suggestions included sweet corn, soybeans, edible beans (snap), sod, and managed turf as good candidates. Zane Helsel suggested looking at completing a landscape and nursery crop profile (see PMSPs below). He also suggested that Dr. Andy Wyenandt (new RCE vegetable plant pathologist) involved in writing vegetable crop profiles. Jim Johnson agreed to request staff at the next Agents meeting to take on completion of pending or proposed crop profiles in their area of expertise (*i.e.*, tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, sweet corn, soybeans, snap beans, sod, and managed turf). It was also mentioned that a joint crop profile with Pennsylvania for pumpkins should be considered given Ray Samulis' current work.

Pest Management Strategy Plans (PMSP): George Hamilton reported that during the last grant period, Dr. Peter Shearer developed a Peach PMSP which is posted to the NJinPAS and National websites. He added that, a carrot PMSP was proposed for year one of the current NEIMPC grant, and that it is being developed by Joe Mahar for completion by the end of the year. A draft Carrot PMSP has been posted for Work Group Review. PMSP downloads from the NJinPAS website for this year were as follows: Final Peach PMSP (279); Draft Carrot (202); and Regional Spinach PMSP (191).

The Committee was asked for future candidates for PMSPs for New Jersey. The group decided that since a crop profile had been completed for honey bees that developing a PMSP for honey bees would be a logical next step. Mike Stanghellini of RCE and Paul Raybold were recommended to again take the lead on this. Audrey Moore volunteered to participate. Zane Helsel recommended that the Mid-Atlantic Apiary and Extension Consortium become involved.

For the future, the group discussed developing a PMSP for nursery crops and landscape pending completion of New York's regional crop profile for nursery crops (due in 2004). Carl Nordstrom requested an outline of the New York profile.

Listserv Update: Pat Hastings reported that NJinPAS listserv members in the past year have increased from 180 to 248 (a 25% increase), while the total number of individual topic listserv enrollments had increased from 467 to 740 (an increase of 59%). Pat Hastings also reported that posting activity of the listserv has steadily increased from 150 in 2002; to 215 in 2003; and 247 to date for 2004; thus, there has been a total of 604 postings to the NJinPAS listservs since inception in late 2001. Site statistics showed that the NJinPAS Listserv Archive showing more than 300,000 downloads of listserv postings in just one year.

Several members recommended a separate listserv for invasives as this is becoming an issue that spans across commodities. Pat Hastings will create the 'NJinPAS Invasives' listserv with RCE Computing Services, announce the availability of the new listserv and compile a database for enrollees. At the recommendation of a Committee member, we will distinguish the initial postings of invasives information in all capital letters "ALERT...".

Website Update: Pat Hastings reported web statistics from the 'Webtrends' service for Rutgers Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office Website since it is the official staging site of NJinPAS, pesticide applicator training, and Integrated Pest Management webpages. As of the meeting date, the website has received well over 1.5 million hits since site inception in 2001; the site has had approximately 600,000 hits this year alone. Site visits totaled 4,000 in 2000; 11,000 in 2001; 34,000 in 2002; roughly 49,000 in 2003; and roughly 90,000 this past year. The top pages viewed included those related to School IPM (approximately 20, 300 views) and pesticide applicator training (roughly 16,000 views).

In addition to webpages, a large portion of the NJinPAS site consists of Adobe Acrobat files. Crop Profiles were the most downloaded files at roughly 15,000 downloaded crop profiles with the new Eggplant Crop Profile in the lead at nearly 2,000 downloads for the year.

The second most highly downloaded Adobe Acrobat files were the various versions of the 'Model Policy for School IPM for New Jersey Schools' just released 4 months ago; there were approximately 3,500 downloads.

The 'Model Policy for School IPM for New Jersey Schools' has already been downloaded 1,800 times since release this year in May 2004.

IPM Working Groups: The types of Working Groups and their membership were discussed by George Hamilton. The group also discussed how the groups were developed initially and how they were initially populated. New Jersey does have representation on the following Working Groups:

- o Fruit IPM: Peter Shearer (co-chair); Norm Lalancette, Jeff Potent, and Phil Neary.
- o Vegetable IPM: Henry Dubois.
- o Greenhouse and Ornamentals IPM (GO IPM): Jane Nogaki and Jim Lashomb.
- o Community IPM: Pat Hastings.
- o Livestock and Field Crops IPM: Audrey Moore.

As spots on these and the other working groups become available, NJinPAS will suggest names for New Jersey participants. Joseph Mahar (RCE Vegetable IPM Coordinator) and Richard VanVranken (RCE County Agricultural Agent) have tentatively agreed to be the next candidates for the Vegetable Working Group. *In his comments on the minutes draft, Peter Shearer noted that those interested in Commodity Working Group participation must submit a proposal for funding of the Group. The 2005 RFA for the NEIPMC states: In previous years, the Center has provided noncompetitive support of IWGs that addressed defined IPM settings (vegetables, fruit, greenhouse and ornamentals, livestock and field crops, public health, and community IPM). In Year-2, for the first time, the Center's working groups will be funded on a competitive basis through the IPM Partnership Grants RFA.*

School IPM: School IPM is part of our work for the Community IPM Working Group. The current NJinPAS activities regarding assisting in the adoption of school IPM was discussed as were the future needs in this area. (*Handout: The Index of the 'Model Plan for IPM for New Jersey Schools'; jointly developed by RCE PMO and the NJDEP Pesticide Control Program*). Lack of resources and funding were cited as the major obstacle to School IPM outreach and training by George Hamilton. The Committee then discussed how funding and help might be garnered to address these needs. Recommendations made by members of the committee were to involve Master Gardeners or even Americorps in school IPM training of school personnel was met with discussion. Another Committee member recommended that County Extension Agents should receive in-service training on school IPM. Several members of the Committee voiced the importance of having an Urban Entomologist hired by RCE as an overwhelming need for this area as well as structural IPM by stakeholders. Zane Helsel provided that Dean Cooper had just announced a hiring freeze. As a resolution, Karen Anderson, Jane Nogaki, and Nancy Sadlon volunteered to draft a proposal by the NJinPAS Advisory Committee outlining the need for this outreach and how funding might be accomplished.

Other Items Announced by George Hamilton:

NE IPM Center Conference – The first annual regional conference will be held on March 15 -17, 2005 in Manchester, NH. Information regarding this new, stand-alone meeting can be found at http://nepmc.org/conference2005_index.cfm.

NE IPMC Director Search – Jim VanKirk has left the center to become an assistant director for the Southern IPM Center in Raleigh, NC. As a result, a search for new co-director for the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center has been initiated. The position was announced and a screening committee is now reviewing CV's in order to select 3 or 4 candidates to interview. George Hamilton and Zane Helsel are members of the screening committee. The decision on suitable candidates to interview will occur on November 12th via conference call.

Last Year's Grant Request for Applications – NJinPAS applied for funding to maintain the network, coordinate the MAINPAS group, and develop a series of crop profiles and a Pest Management Strategic Plan. Additionally NJinPAS submitted a Community IPM commodity working group proposal to develop a database of homeowner pesticides and low impact materials, and a critical issues proposal to conduct studies on the brown marmorated stink bug (BMS). The MAINPAS, Community commodity working group, and critical issues requests were not funded. However, NJinPAS did receive funding to create a public awareness campaign regarding the BMS using a reporting website, magnets, fact sheets, and other materials. Jim Johnson suggested that we develop some BMS bookmarks instead of magnets; Carl Schulze offered that there are already Asian Longhorned Beetle bookmarks available; Margaret Skinner of the University of Vermont is a source of these. The Committee also requested that RCE expand the Invasive Species part of website.

Development of Organic Recommendations – The group discussed at length the possibility and need for the development of organic pest control recommendations for commercial growers and homeowners. The implications of this, including how the recommendations for various commodities are developed and the multi-state nature of some recommendations were discussed (e.g., The Vegetable Recommendations are jointly authored by Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and New Jersey Specialists, and are typically not released until August; thus, it was recommended that NOFA contact counterparts in these other States to generate support). Based on this discussion, the committee recommended that NJinPAS (George Hamilton) should investigate the possibility of discussions with RCE Extension Specialists of having organic recommendations included into the commercial vegetable recommendation guide, as well as identifying research gaps.

In comments to the draft minutes of the Advisory Committee Meeting, Jerry Frecon (12/11/04; 7:20 am) wrote: *I read your minutes and am not sure what I can say about them. I do not think we have any science based information at Rutgers to draft organic pesticide recommendations for commercial tree fruit growers. Every time we try and take a step forward in this area we fail miserably because what we try is simply not effective or cost effective in tree fruit. Since we have a significant liability when we make pest management recommendations we have to make sure we have good science behind our recommendations. We are a long way from having that information in tree fruit crops in New Jersey and most of the northeastern United States. I also do not think we have much science based information in small fruit crops and nursery crops to make these recommendations and as we are being hit with potentially massive budget cuts we may not have the resources to undertake this work.* Jerry Frecon

Other Recommendations Put Forward by the Committee:

1. Present NJinPAS activities at the New Jersey Vegetable Growers meeting next year,
2. Generate support for the hiring of an urban entomologist via the group writing a letter to appropriate people (Hamilton, Anderson, and Nogaki will develop this; Hamilton will facilitate), and
3. Have next meeting in October not November.

EPA Update by Audrey Moore

1. FY 05 Region 2 Funded Projects (Handout)
2. EPA's Ag Center (Handout)