

Progress Report for 2006

Under Northeast Integrated Pest Management Center Subcontract No.: 2016-RU-USDA-9759, Rutgers Cooperative Extension or (RCE) created the New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies (NJinPAS). It is part of a land-grant university collaboration of 'Mid-Atlantic Partners' consisting of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia. The 'Mid Atlantic Information Network for Pesticides & Alternative Strategies' (MAINPAS) state collaboration is designed to provide a structure to gather and transmit information on issues relevant to both current and transitional pest management strategies. Its purpose is to improve the level of knowledge, awareness, and understanding of local, State, regional, and national pest management practices. New Jersey stakeholders are instrumental in identifying state pest management issues; these are then outlined in crop profiles and strategy plans. It is also important to provide stakeholders with compliance advisories when necessary. The information gathered and distributed by NJinPAS is key to informed decision-making by Federal regulators on pest management issues that impact New Jersey.

Advisory Committee - NJinPAS goals and objectives are guided by an Advisory Committee comprised of New Jersey stakeholders representing a diversity of perspectives and technical expertise. The Committee includes representatives from commodity groups, grower organizations, environmental and public interest groups, Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE), research faculty of the Rutgers University College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, the Pesticide Control Program of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), and pesticide registrants.

The NJinPAS Advisory Committee is now comprised of 34 New Jersey stakeholders representing a diversity of perspectives and technical expertise. Specifically, this committee includes representatives from agricultural and horticultural industry, extension, university researchers, environmental and public interest groups, and state and local government. Attachment 1 provides a revised list of organizations and individuals who now serve on the NJinPAS Advisory Committee.

Since NJinPAS inception in 2001, the Advisory Committee has participated in fifth meetings to guide the objectives of the project. These meetings were held on November 16, 2001, September 27, 2002, September 17, 2003 November 3, 2004 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The fifth meeting was held on December 5, 2006. Recommendations made by the NJinPAS Advisory Committee are posted in Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (Attachment 2) on a webpage created specifically to document the proceedings of the Committee; see www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/Advisorycommittee.Htm. These documents are also distributed to the NE IPMC Directors and our mid-Atlantic partner States and advisors.

Coordination With Other Mid-Atlantic State Network Projects - To facilitate project communication, NJinPAS set up a closed listserv for the Project Directors of the mid-Atlantic State Network Projects (DE, MD, NJ, NY and WV) in March 2002. Members have used the listserv to transmit meeting minutes; announce and coordinate pesticide surveys, crop profiles, and pest management strategy plans; as well as announce the monthly release of State newsletters like Delaware's 'Pesticide Briefs' and Maryland's 'Pesticide Notes'. Project

Directors met to update each other on objectives and procedures, and upcoming projects of their respective information networks in March 2002, July 2002, August 2003, October 2004, August 2005 and September 2006. Project Directors discussed projections for crop profiles (Delaware, Maryland, New York, West Virginia, and New Jersey) and Pest Management Strategic Plans (New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia). Arrangements were made for the release of crop profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs) to all interested states. Final collaboration between members in 2006 was confirmed by email in January.

Coordination with Other Programs and Agencies - In addition to coordination with other State Network Projects, we have coordinated with other regional integrated pest management (IPM), pesticide safety, and IR-4 programs. Project Director George Hamilton, in his role as both state IPM and Pesticide Safety Education Coordinator, routinely communicates with faculty and staff connected with the Blueberry, Nursery, Tree Fruit, and Vegetable IPM programs, faculty in other states and other regional Pesticide Safety Education Programs.. This has allowed the transfer of information between growers, staff, Coordinators, and Extension Specialists.

NJinPAS coordinates projects with IR-4. Bill Nicholson, Director of the Rutgers Agricultural Research & Extension Center (RAREC) serves as the Extension coordinator for IR-4 and provides information regarding New Jersey based IR-4 projects and priorities. Jerry Baron, IR-4 Director, routinely provides NJinPAS with information for posting to our listservs. Further, IR-4 specialists have been members of the PMSP Work Groups. Both Edith Lurvey and Van Starner were instrumental in advising of new use candidates for both of these activities.

NJinPAS collaborates with State and Federal agencies to better serve our stakeholders. There is a strong partnership of the NJinPAS with the NJDEP and US EPA. Thomas Kazcsorski, NJDEP Section 24C and 18 Coordinator, are routinely consulted for technical reviews as part of the process in publishing new webpages. Further, Thomas Kazcsorski provides the program with expedited notices of Section 18s and 24Cs for posting to the listservs. Fran Gerding, Senior Environmental Specialist with the NJDEP provides monthly recertification course updates that we publish to both the NJinPAS website and listservs. Audrey Moore, Regional Ag Policy Specialist for EPA Region 2 is a frequent contributor to the NJinPAS listserv, thus keeping our stakeholders in the Federal loop. We frequently consult with EPA's Office of Pesticide Program's Special Review and Reregistration Division on Federal Register Notices. We periodically consult with Cheryl Greene of EPA's PESP Program for new information for outreach to promote use of reduced risk pesticides and biological rational products.

Additionally, we now work very closely with Carl Schulze, the Director of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) Division of Plant Industry in order to provide NJinPAS stakeholders with advisories on critical issues such as Asian Long Horned Beetle, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, SODS, and soybean rust; weekly alerts have included details of the quarantine and eradication programs for New Jersey towns invaded by this invasive pest. NJinPAS worked with the USDA APHIS, NJDA, other state Departments of Agriculture and Extension Specialists to set up an invasive species website at www.rce.rutgers.edu/invasives to allow the public and private sectors to report sightings of either the Asian Long Horned Beetle or the Brown Marmorated Stinkbug. RCE provided NJDA updates on Sudden Oak Death when this pest problem became known in the United States; see www.rce.rutgers.edu/sod/. NJinPAS has

coordinated regional resources for the NJDA in its work to prepare applications for Section 18 emergency exemptions for fungicides for new invasive soybean rust.

Statewide coordination of information with a varied group of pest management stakeholders is also facilitated by Project Director George Hamilton through his activities as a member of the New Jersey Governor's Pesticide Advisory Committee. This committee advises the Administrator of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Pesticide Control Program on pesticide policy. Serving on the committee are representatives from growers, lawn care applicators, structural pest control applicators, pesticide registrants, aerial applicators, pesticide dealers, New Jersey Public Health, and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

Listservs - In 2001, NJinPAS set up and has since maintained an email listserv and mailing infrastructure for expedited delivery to New Jersey stakeholders of more timely pesticide-related information (such as regulation advisories or requests for comment). The listserv membership includes growers, crop consultants, pesticide users, public interest groups, environmental groups, and Extension faculty and staff; listserv enrollment statistics reflect the composition of the Advisory Committee. Currently 320 persons are enrolled in the listservs and of that there were 800 individual listserv enrollments. Listserv membership currently includes the following: Extension: (24%); agriculture and horticultural industry: (22%); State & local government: (19%); University researchers: (18%); environmental & public interest groups: (9%); and regional & national partners (7%). NJinPAS listserv enrollments in the past year have increased from 300 to 320 (a 7% increase), while the total number of individual listserv enrollments had increased from 800 to more than 1,000 (an increase of over 25%). Posting activity of the listserv has steadily increased from 150 in 2002; to 215 in 2003; 247 in 2004; and 825 to date for 2006.

Although the availability of the listservs and the Pest Management Office web site continues to be provided to all applicators that attend initial and recertification pesticide training, we have taken measures to increase in the number of stakeholders using these services. NJinPAS set up online enrollment in the listservs at www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/listservs.htm to make it easier to enroll. Additionally, we designed a flyer advertising the NJinPAS Listservs and how to enroll in them; this flyer has been revised several times this year to include new additions. We also designed and distribute a flyer on the web network that serves NJinPAS stakeholders. Members of the Advisory Committee distributed more than 1,000 flyers on the listservs to their stakeholders. Distribution included: the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey, EPA Region 2, NJ Environmental Federation, New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association, Rutgers Fruit IPM Scouting program, NJ Mosquito Control Association, NJ Department of Agriculture; Division of Plant Industry, Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center, RCE Forestry program, NJDEP Pesticide Control Program, Vegetable and Fruit Working Groups, Vegetable IPM Scouting program, the NJ Pest Control Association, and NJ Farm Bureau. Articles on the NJinPAS Listservs, as well as the PMO webpage have been published in 6 editions of the RCE 'Plant & Pest Advisory': Cranberry; Fruit; Field and Forage Crops; Landscape, Nursery, and Turf ; Organic; and Vegetable Crops.

Participants in any NJinPAS listserv automatically receive general announcements via the "NJinPAS Network" listserv. By design, we minimize mass mailings by making available additional listserv 'topic' subgroups that would be used for more specific distribution,

including regulation notices or pesticide advisories. There are a total of ten separate listserv categories for open enrollment: Network; Institutions & Interiors; Mosquito; Fruit; Turf, Ornamentals, Greenhouse, & Nursery; Field & Forage Crops; Vegetables; School IPM; Forests & Xmas Trees; and Invasives.

Since listserv inception, timely announcement of non-routine pesticide actions (such as Section 18 Emergency Exemptions, Crisis Exemptions, and Section 24C Special Local Need Registrations) have been made to the appropriate NJinPAS listservs. We are able to process these quickly due to the cooperation of the NJDEP.

Each pesticide action is then archived online chronologically, providing the only web-accessible listing of past and current pesticide registrations and exemptions granted for New Jersey. Specifically, we inaugurated a webpage on 'Listserv Postings' for access to an online archive of all open listserv postings made since October 2001 @ www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/listservpostings.asp. All postings to the open NJinPAS listservs that are archived online may be viewed by date, listserv, or topic. There have been a total of 825 postings to the NJinPAS listservs since inception in late 2001.

NJinPAS remains flexible to the changing issues and regulations affecting our stakeholders. For example, the New Jersey Pesticide Control regulations were significantly revised in November 2001, greatly impacting training and record keeping requirements for applicators in the State. By February, we had constructed web pages with training regulation guidance and revised record keeping forms in cooperation with the NJDEP PCP. Accordingly, we posted a series of four listserv updates on the regulations and the availability of this online help to the NJinPAS Network listserv. This was a significant contribution to New Jersey applicators as the NJDEP did not have the resources to revise their website similarly in such a timely manner. NJinPAS continues to provide applicators with the most current revisions of pesticide report forms. In 2002, New Jersey passed the School IPM Act. To meet the demand for tools to implement integrated pest management by this newly-regulated group, NJinPAS collaborated with the NJDEP to produce a 'Model Plan for School IPM in New Jersey Schools' in advance of the June 12, 2004 compliance date. NJinPAS also set up the School IPM listserv and NJ-specific webpages; see www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/IPM/SchoolIPM/plan.htm

WebSite - In 2001, we constructed the NJinPAS project home page at www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/NJinPASindex.htm. We developed many new pages in 2002 through 2006 to serve NJinPAS stakeholders. Currently, the website houses 100 NJinPAS web pages plus over 800 online individual listserv postings in the Online Listserv Posting Archive. The website has received well over 2 million hits since site inception in 2001. The top pages viewed included those related to School IPM and pesticide applicator training. NJinPAS developed a web page to provide access to previously published reports of surveys and analyses of agricultural and commercial pest management practices in New Jersey (www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/pesticidesurveys.htm).

NJinPAS State Network Project designed a webpage to provide online access to completed crop profiles and pest management strategy plans for New Jersey. Crop Profiles for alfalfa, apples, asparagus, blueberry, cranberry, field corn, peaches, spinach, and squash. (www.pest

management.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/CropProfiles.htm). Pest management strategy plans for Peaches, Carrots and a Regional Spinach PMSP are also posted.

IPM Working Groups – New Jersey stakeholders are broadly represented in the NEIMPC IPM Working Groups. Specifically, Jane Nogaki, founding chairperson of the NJ Environmental Federation is a member of the Greenhouses and Ornamental IPM (GOIPM) Work Group., Dr. Peter Shearer, Extension Specialist in Tree Fruit Entomology, is the co-leader for the Tree Fruit IPM Working Group, Dr. Brad Majek, Extension Specialist in Weed Science, is member of the Vegetable IPM Working Group and Pat Hastings, Extension Program Associate in Pest Management is a member of the NE IPMC working group for Community IPM.