

Patricia D. Hastings

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Cc: <js38@cornell.edu>; <klw24@cornell.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2006 12:00 PM
Subject: Great Opportunity: Tactical Agriculture (TAg) Workshop for Trainers!

Cornell is announcing a Workshop for those that work with farmers; this might include Extension, State agencies, or other agricultural educators. The intent of the Workshop is that participants will receive hands-on experience and guidance for designing their own unique season-long on-farm educational programs.

Cornell successfully implemented this education model in its' Tactical Agriculture (TAg) program; it is an experiential, hands-on training program for small groups of farmers in local areas. See Cornell webpage on 'TAg Team' implementation in New York at www.nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/tag_team/. **This model can be tailored to your specific outreach goals.**

See below the letter of invitation to the Workshop (*courtesy of Dr. George Hamilton, Specialist in Pest Management and Professor of Entomology for the Department of Entomology of Rutgers University*).

Some quick details are excerpted from the letter:

- 1.5-day training workshop will be held in Albany, NY on Thursday-Friday February 1-2, 2007; reimbursement may be available for travel and lodging expenses.
- Funded under the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NE SARE).

For grower members of our listserv, the Northeast SARE region is made up of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. For more information on NE Sare, including grant opportunities up to \$10,000 for farmers, see <http://www.uvm.edu/~nesare/>.

Date: 5 October 2006
 To: IPM Coordinators, Extension Faculty, and Leaders in Pest Management in the Northeast
 From: Ken Wise, Julie Dennis, and Keith Waldron, NYS IPM
 Re: Seeking Participants for Tactical Agriculture (TAg) Training Workshop

Hello from the NYS Livestock and Field Crops IPM Program team. We recently received funding from NE SARE to offer a workshop to share information on a successful educational model that has proven highly effective in delivering locally adapted IPM field programs to our clientele. We invite your assistance to identify individuals with IPM programming responsibilities in any agricultural commodity and an interest in innovative educational approaches.

The educational model, called Tactical Agriculture, or TAg, has been implemented in 30 counties in NY since 1990 with over 900 program "graduates". The training workshop will teach participants the philosophy, benefits, components, and ground level implementation activities of a TAg program. The 1.5-day training workshop will be held in Albany, NY on Thursday-Friday February 1-2, 2007. Reimbursement may be available for travel and lodging expenses.

How will this TAg training workshop benefit you and your colleagues? This training will provide participants with the opportunity to interact with like-minded individuals and experts in implementing adult education for agricultural clientele. Participants will receive hands-on experience and guidance for designing their own unique season-long on-farm educational programs. Participants will:

- Explore how adults learn
- Work in interactive groups to practice small group teaching dynamics
- Design teaching modules and discover ways to make the most of in-field teaching aids
- Learn effective ways to translate teaching results into reportable impacts
- Return home with a "rough draft" plan for implementing a TAg program
- Build relationships with people who have been successfully using the TAg model for years.

The TAg program is an experiential, hands-on training program for small groups of farmers in local areas. Farmers are actively integrated into the growing-season-long educational program with timely meetings to discuss critical pest and crop management issues that arise during the growing season. Built into the program are straightforward ways to demonstrate impacts and potential behavior changes, which we all know is a key part of our extension programming these days! Because impacts are readily measurable, TAg is a very cost-effective extension education system. The program can be custom built for the specific cropping needs in local areas. Participants will learn from fellow extension personnel and be encouraged to explore and discuss how a TAg style program could be adapted to meet their local extension needs. More information on TAg can be found at: <http://nysipm.cornell.edu/fieldcrops/tag/default.asp>, while current TAg educational modules are available on-line at: <http://www.northeastipm.org/saremod/index.html>.

Please share this announcement with others who may be interested in this program. For more information contact: Julie Dennis (js38@cornell.edu , 315-331-8415) or Ken Wise (klw24@cornell.edu , 518-434-1690). We look forward to hearing from you very soon. Space is limited for this innovative training experience!

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