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Pest
Management
Center

Annual Report
2001-2002





Safe and intelligent use of pest management options is a NE PMC goal. Photo by Keith Weller courtesy of USDA Agricultural Research Services.

In September 2000, the USDA funded the creation of the Northeastern Pest Management Center (NE PMC) as part of a nationwide system established to respond quickly to pest management information needs in both the public and private sectors. NE PMC's essential function is to develop and maintain an information network that will contribute to environmentally and economically sound pest management decisions. This network serves two major purposes: to facilitate communication among key groups of people, and to provide these groups with broad access to reliable pest management information.

NE PMC connects a diverse array of people who have an interest in pest management policy and implementation, including pest management users (e.g., farmers, nursery owners, park managers, and homeowners), consumer and environmental groups, government regulatory agencies, researchers, and educators. Networking takes place both through the Center's own organization (committees, project leaders, and commodity working groups) and through electronic communications structures such as email lists, online bulletin boards, and web pages.

NE PMC is working with other regional pest management centers to build interactive databases that hold all types of pest management information. These are available on the World Wide Web for use by everyone interested in pest management and alternative strategies (<http://nepmc.org>)

NE PMC's Greenhouse and Ornamentals Commodity Working Group met in Columbia, Maryland in June to discuss the priorities of their industry.



Pest Management Information & Communication Network

IPM Commodity Working Groups (CWGs)

NE PMC has created a forum for pest management experts and other stakeholders to develop integrated pest management (IPM) priorities in agricultural commodities and non-ag pest management settings such as parks and schools. These CWGs are working to promote environmentally and economically sound pest management decisions by evaluating the status of current pest management practices, identifying critical information needs, compiling IPM definitions, and determining priorities for future projects.



Leaders Ruth Hazzard and Curt Petzoldt facilitating the 2002 Vegetable Commodity Working Group meeting.

Fruit: The Fruit CWG is documenting available IPM resources on a state-by-state basis. It works with state IPM coordinators and others to collect and organize this information, and then make it available to stakeholders via the NE PMC web site. In addition, this group is developing a survey to determine stakeholder research, education, and regulatory priorities.

Vegetables: The Vegetable CWG intends to serve coordination and communication functions as well as setting research and extension priorities in regional IPM programming. Members are documenting and delineating IPM resources (e.g., protocols, scouting guides) in the region, and the group anticipates sponsoring a regional pest management strategic plan (PMSP).

Greenhouse/Ornamentals: This CWG has adopted the name “GO-IPM” and has received funding from the NE PMC Steering Committee to conduct a survey of key pest management stakeholders in each state to provide a broad perspective on the IPM priorities for the region. The group is also compiling a directory of greenhouse and ornamental IPM professionals to improve the communications network among experts in the region.

Community: The Community CWG members represent diverse stakeholders from across the region and communicate regularly via a targeted email server provided by the Center. This CWG addresses pest management in settings that do not fall under the umbrella of production agriculture but that effect the economics, health and quality of communities, such as schools, homes, landscapes, buildings, parks, and other recreational areas.

Livestock/Field Crops: The Livestock and Field Crops CWG hopes to produce a regional prioritization of research and extension needs by refining the 1996 statewide IPM needs assessment database. They also plan to gather and index a list of extension IPM resources from the across the region.

Public Health IPM: The Public Health CWG maintains a focus on the management of insect vector-borne illness such as Lyme disease or West Nile virus (as opposed to anthrax or other diseases spread by animals). This group offers a particularly valuable perspective because of the limited number of people in the public health pest management field, despite the fact that it is a timely topic. This group is establishing goals that will help communities protect both public health *and* the environment.

Information Network Projects



Links to each Information Network Project are available at the NE PMC site.

N E PMC uses a competitive grants program to help build and extend its information network. Seven “information network projects” involving all twelve states in the region have been funded. New England’s Pest Management Network (NEPMNet) is funded as one project that includes the New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), with the University of Maine as the lead institution. Projects in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia are working together as the Mid-Atlantic Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies (MAINPAS). The Pennsylvania project, known as the Pennsylvania Pest Management Information Center (PA PMIC), also cooperates with other states in the region.

Project leaders are spearheading efforts to produce commodity-specific pesticide use surveys, crop profiles, and pest management strategic plans (PMSPs). These products are essential in setting research, extension, and regulatory priorities. Each project supports its own web site including news, IPM recommendations for specific crops, directories, communication tools, and updates on regulatory decisions to name a few. Links to all these projects can be found on the NE PMC home page, at nepmc.org.

Information Network Project	Leader/ Institution	Major Efforts
Delaware	S. H. Whitney Univ. of Delaware	Crop profiles: wheat and one of either: apple, carrot, or green pepper PMSPs: lima beans
Maryland	A. E. Brown Univ. of Maryland	Crop profiles: muskmelon, potato
New England	J. F. Dill Univ. of Maine	Crop profiles: apple, snap bean, carrot, winter squash, peach, pear, tomato, peas PMSPs: apple, winter squash, pear, peach, tomato
New Jersey	G. C. Hamilton Rutgers Univ.	Crop profiles: apple, green pepper, carrot, field corn, eggplant (and will revise forage alfalfa, asparagus, blueberry, cranberry, peach, squash, spinach) PMSPs: peach, carrot
New York	G. L. Good Cornell Univ.	Crop profiles: nursery and ornamentals, field corn PMSPs: nursery and ornamentals
Pennsylvania	R. D. Weaver The Penn. State Univ.	Crop profiles: alfalfa, apple, snap beans, cabbage, cantaloupe, field and sweet corn, grape, hay, pear, soybean, small grains, (and will review mushroom, pumpkin, potato, tomato, tart cherry, peach, nectarine, squash, Christmas trees) PMSPs: mushroom
West Virginia	J. F. Baniecki West Virginia Univ.	Crop profiles: tomatoes, potatoes PMSPs: apple

World Wide Web Site and Online Databases ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

The Northeastern Pest Management Center web site (nepmc.org) is the focal point of our online information and communications system. Design and maintenance of the site is accomplished in conjunction with other regional centers and the information technology support group at North Carolina State University. This site includes a great deal of useful information on many aspects of pest management in the region and across the nation. New material and links are added routinely. Some of the items included are: news, crop profiles, pest management strategic plans, crop production statistics, new pest management technologies, pesticide use data, funded research projects, project reports, and grant opportunities.

Newsletters

NE PMC produces a newsletter called *In the Center* that is distributed in print and available on the web site. *In the Center* is mailed to 1,800 recipients, including grower organizations; agricultural consultants; environmental, agricultural and consumer advocacy organizations; federal and state legislators; news media; food processors; growers and other producers; regulatory agencies; land-grant researchers; NASS and other government agencies; university administrators; and others. The Center staff has initiated a reader survey that will allow us to refine distribution methods and content to best serve our audience. People involved directly in the Center stay up to date with current activities by reading the *NE PMC Insider* (nepmc.org/insider/current.html), a monthly electronic newsletter for participants in the Center. Each issue gathers information from contacts within the NE PMC, and provides updates about funding opportunities, personnel changes in IPM programs, news from CWGs and information network projects, pest management workshops and seminars, new publications, new research efforts and programs, research results, and news about activities at the Center.

National Collaboration

NE PMC has worked with leadership of the other three regional Centers, the National Science Foundation Center for Integrated Pest Management, and the USDA to coordinate development. This collaboration includes participation in national pest management meetings and conference calls, hosting an email list server, presentations at other regions' Pest Management Center meetings, service on grant review panels and staff search committees for other regions.



Ron Stinner, of the National Science Foundation's Center for Integrated Pest Management, located at North Carolina State University, coordinates the national center website which links the four regions nationwide.



Northeastern Pest Management Center's winter newsletter written by Elizabeth Myers.

Regional Collaboration and Synergy



Members of the Greenhouse and Ornamental Commodity Working Group (GO-IPM), tour Brookside Gardens in Columbia, Maryland during their 2002 meeting.

One of NE PMC's major roles is to help northeastern states collaborate on projects that individual states might not be able to carry out. For example, the Center facilitates the creation of PMSPs, which outline the current pest management practices and address future needs for individual commodities within a particular region. PMSPs are developed by groups of stakeholders (such as growers, consultants, environmentalists, regulators, university researchers, or extension staff) who work cooperatively to identify research, regulatory, and educational priorities for programs that support a transition to improved pest management practices in the future. NE PMC's coordinating role helps to utilize IPM expertise in each state while reducing duplication of effort and promoting the synergistic effects of collaboration.

The Center also facilitates collaboration on grant projects. For example, NE PMC organized a conference call among several scientists resulting in the submission of a successful grant proposal that garnered \$1.8 million from the Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program. The project, called "Reduced-risk Pest Management Programs for Eastern Tree Fruits," is led by Peter Shearer of Rutgers University. Support activities such as these are a major function of NE PMC and contribute to major research and extension projects that address issues of concern to the region.



NE PMC sponsored a workshop to produce a national pest management strategic plan for cranberries. Photo of cranberry harvest by Keith Weller courtesy of USDA-ARS

Organization • • • • • • • • • • & Leadership

Staff

The Pennsylvania State University and Cornell University jointly administer NE PMC. The Center's director, John Ayers, is responsible for project leadership, for coordinating the Advisory Council (AC) and the Steering Committee, and for managing the Information Network Competitive Grants Program. The Center's coordinator, James VanKirk, works along with staff writer Elizabeth Myers and information specialist Elizabeth Thomas. Together this group is responsible for daily operations, including building and managing the website, producing and distributing publications, and facilitating communications through use of conference calls, electronic methods, and face-to-face meetings. NE PMC staff work to promote and facilitate collaboration among CWGs and information networks, optimizing synergy while minimizing duplication of effort.



NE PMC Director, John Ayers, works from The Pennsylvania State University.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council (AC) provides broad vision and guidance to the Steering Committee and Center staff. Members represent a wide range of stakeholders and link the Center to stakeholder needs and priorities for pest management programs. Moreover, AC members are an important avenue for Center outreach, promoting awareness and marketing the benefits of the Center to their own constituencies and beyond. AC members have the opportunity to communicate with and learn from each other. The group meets annually to discuss the Center's organization, activities, and service to stakeholders. In addition to this face-to-face contact, the group shares information and pest management news via an online newsletter and a list server.



Elizabeth Thomas, James VanKirk and Elizabeth Myers (left to right) are part of the NE PMC staff located at Cornell University

Steering Committee

Eleven of the AC members serve as the Center's Steering Committee, the organization's policy-setting body. This group reviews the progress of Information Network (IN) projects and gives specific direction to IN leaders if necessary. It also manages funding used by the CWGs for items such as surveys, directories, fact sheets or other similar products. Members give feedback on newsletter tone, audience and content. SC meetings and conference calls result in specific action steps for NE PMC staff and members.

Committees

Steering Committee

John Ayers	PA	The Pennsylvania State University
Wilfred Burr	DC	USDA-Office of Pest Management Policy
James Dill	ME	University of Maine
Zane Helsel	NJ	Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Mike Hoffmann	NY	Cornell University
Robert Koethe	MA	Environmental Protection Agency-Region I
Glenn Morin	MA	New England Fruit Consultants
Therese Murtagh	DC	USDA-Office of Pest Management Policy
Illiana Rivas	MA	Red Tomato
Robert Seem	NY	Cornell University-NYS Agricultural Experiment Station
James VanKirk	NY	Cornell University-NYS Agricultural Experiment Station
Joanne Whalen	DE	University of Delaware

Advisory Council

Phil Benedict	VT	Vermont Department of Agriculture
Aubrey Davis	MA	National Agricultural Statistics Program - New England
Anne Donnelly	PA	Environmental Protection Agency-Region III
Mike Fitzner	DC	Cooperative State Research, Education & Extension Service
George Hamilton	NJ	Rutgers University
Lebelle Hicks	ME	Maine Board of Pesticide Control
Abbott Lee	NJ	Lee Brothers, Inc.
Tracy Leskey	WV	Appalachian Fruit Research Station
Edith Lurvey	NY	Interregional Project #4 (IR-4)
Fred Magdoff	VT	Sustainable Agricultural Research & Education Program
Luke McConnell	MD	McConnell Agronomics
Audrey Moore	NJ	Environmental Protection Agency-Region II
Ken Nicewicz	MA	Nicewicz Farms
Jane Nogaki	NJ	NJ Environmental Federation
Bill Pool	NY	Wegman's Food Markets
Dean Purnell	DE	Delaware State University
Marc Teffeau	CT	University of Maryland-Wye Research & Extension Center
John Wargo	MD	Yale University
Joellen Zeh	NY	Audubon International

Commodity Working Group Leaders

Community

Mary Kay Malinoski	MD	University of Maryland
Lynn Braband	NY	Cornell University-NYS Agricultural Experiment Station

Fruit

Peter Shearer	NJ	Rutgers University
David Handley	ME	University of Maine-Highmoor Farm

Greenhouse & Ornamental

Margaret Skinner	VT	University of Vermont
Paula Shrewsbury	MD	University of Maryland

Livestock and Field Crops

Keith Waldron	NY	Cornell University
Dennis Calvin	PA	The Pennsylvania State University

Public Health

Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann	NY	Cornell University
Howard Ginsburg	RI	University of Rhode Island

Vegetables

Ruth Hazzard	MA	University of Massachusetts
Curt Petzoldt	NY	Cornell University-NYS Agricultural Experiment Station

This Annual Report is online at NEPMC.org/reports/AR2002. For more information on NE PMC, visit our website (nepmc.org) or contact NE PMC's coordinator James VanKirk (315-787-2378; jrv1@cornell.edu) or Elizabeth Thomas (315-787-2626; egt3@cornell.edu), NYS IPM Program Office, NYSAES, 630 W. North St., Geneva, NY 14456-0462. Writing and design: Elizabeth Myers, James VanKirk, and Elizabeth Thomas. Printed on recycled paper.