

Vegetable/Strawberry IPM Educator Exchange Program

Request for Applications—October 2006

Would you like to learn more about integrated pest management for vegetables or strawberries, but can't afford to travel to a meeting? Do you have an interest in sharing what you know with others?

The Northeast Vegetable IPM Working Group (http://NortheastIPM.org/work_vegetable.cfm), funded by the Northeastern IPM Center, is launching an Educator Exchange Program. We will pay for qualified expenses to help agricultural professionals in the Northeast learn about and share integrated pest management practices in vegetables and strawberries.

Why the Educator Exchange Program?

The goal of the Northeast Vegetable/Strawberry IPM Educator Exchange Program is to raise the level of interaction among vegetable agricultural professionals in different parts of the region by funding travel to vegetable and/or strawberry conferences that they would otherwise not attend. Educators will gain knowledge at the conferences they attend, meet a new set of colleagues and growers, and return with fresh ideas, contacts, and information that will be included in educational programs for farmers in their communities. This project will help strengthen the communication and networks in the Northeast, support professional development among vegetable and strawberry farmers and educators, and will, through follow-up activities, directly impact growers' ability to implement IPM.

Who may apply

This program is open to vegetable and/or strawberry specialists, Cooperative Extension educators or county agents, growers, crop consultants, government agency staff, agricultural professionals in nonprofit organizations, or anyone who will be in contact with many vegetable or strawberry growers. The person must provide unbiased, research-based information and be a resident of a northeastern state (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia) or the District of Columbia.

Successful applicants will have

- a demonstrated ability to present the information they gain to an audience of farmers in their home area;
- interest in IPM-related subjects; and
- involvement with vegetable or strawberry crops. What will be learned should help the applicant address integrated pest management issues of importance to strawberries or a vegetable crop in their state or region.

Available funding

The maximum amount of money awarded will be \$800 per person. We will reimburse travel, registration fees, and overnight accommodations. Educational programs and travel must take place before December 31, 2007. A total of approximately \$15,000 will be apportioned for the entire Educator Exchange Program.

What can be funded

1. Travel requests to meetings or conferences within the Northeast. Travel must be to a different state or sub-region from your usual travels. Examples include the regional New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference (Manchester, NH); the Mid-Atlantic Vegetable and Fruit Conference (Hershey, PA); state-level meetings, such as the New York Fruit and Vegetable Expo (Syracuse), Delaware Ag Week, and the New Jersey Vegetable and Fruit Conference (Atlantic

City). Other vegetable or strawberry meetings where IPM techniques will be presented or discussed could also qualify.

2. Travel requests to conferences that occur outside the Northeast region, if well justified.

3. Self-designed educational opportunities, such as visiting a farm, farming region, or laboratory where you can learn specific techniques or practices.

How you give back

Recipients will be required to share what they learn about vegetable and strawberry IPM. Possible methods include

- presenting or organizing a program at a conference, workshop, or twilight meeting;
- writing newsletter articles that could also be posted on the Northeastern IPM Center website;
- working directly with growers to implement or evaluate a new practice;
- participating in the planning committee for the next vegetable or strawberry conference (or other educational program) in your home state; and
- making use of new professional contacts to invite speakers to the region.

Reaching new audiences with information is encouraged. Recipients will report to the Vegetable IPM Working Group the number of people and audiences who were exposed to the new information and other impacts of the activities that resulted from their travel.

How to apply

Application format (length: one to two pages):

1. Contact information: your name, title, name of your organization, address, email, and phone number.
2. Objective and rationale: what you want to learn and why it is important to implementation of vegetable or strawberry IPM in your region.
3. Statement of work telling us why you need the funds; what educational program you wish to attend; and ways in which you will share or use the information.
4. Deadline for conference registration. Travel must take place before December 31, 2007.
5. Statement of expenses being requested.
6. List of in-kind or matching funds (not required).

Submit your application electronically to westgate@umext.umass.edu or in hard copy to:

Ruth Hazzard

Department of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences

250 Natural Resources Way

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA 01003

(413) 545-3696

(413) 545-5858 (fax)

Timetable and review process

You will receive confirmation that we received your application and an answer as soon as a decision can be made. All applications received by November 30 will be reviewed by the Vegetable IPM Working Group. If funds are not fully allocated after the first round of applications, further applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Funding of qualified proposals will be based on the availability of funds at the time of submission. For further information, including updates on funds remaining in this category throughout the year, see http://NortheastIPM.org/work_vegetable.cfm.