

Vegetable/Strawberry IPM Educator Exchange Program
Request for Applications—October 2007

APPLY NOW FOR WINTER 2008 CONFERENCES!

Would you like to learn more about integrated pest management for vegetables or strawberries, but don't have funds for travel? Is there a conference that you would like to attend, a research or Extension program or a farm that is doing a type of work in IPM that you would like to learn about? Do you have a commitment to sharing what you learn with growers?

The Northeast Vegetable IPM Working Group (http://northeastipm.org/work_vegetable.cfm) is sponsoring 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. This program, launched in January 2007, has already funded several consultants, growers and Extension educators to travel to conferences and learn about IPM. They each have a plan for sharing the IPM practices in vegetables and strawberries that they learned.

There is still funding available and you may still apply.

Note that you may apply to travel to any educational program related to IPM that is outside your state or your subregion within the Northeast. You may also apply to make a special visit to another lab, research station, or region in order to learn about a special project or new working IPM that you want to bring back to growers in your area. Thus, don't just think about the winter conference season – these funds may be used during the growing season!

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 Northeast region by funding travel that would not otherwise be possible. 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 home area.

Who may apply

This program is open to growers, vegetable and/or strawberry specialists, Cooperative Extension educators or county agents, 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, and involvement with, IPM-related subjects in vegetable or strawberry crops;
- a plan for follow up outreach activities: what will be learned at the proposed meeting should help the applicant address specific 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, food (up to \$35 per day) and overnight accommodations. Educational programs and travel must take place **before September 1, 2008**. Approximately \$8,000 remains to be distributed in the Educator Exchange Program.

What can be funded

- 1. Travel requests to meetings or conferences in the Northeast. Travel within the Northeast must be to a different state or sub-region.** (For example, if you are from a New England state, you would not be able to receive funding to travel to the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference.) Possible meetings 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 or trainings that occur outside the Northeast region**, if the training will benefit Northeastern growers.
3. **Self-designed educational opportunities**, such as visiting a farm, farming region, research project 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. Reaching new audiences with information is encouraged. 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.

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. Any printed or electronic outreach materials should be submitted as well, for inclusion on the NE IPM Center website.

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. Brief biography: your position, experience (length of time in position), and responsibilities.
3. Objective and rationale: what you want to learn and why it is important to implementation of vegetable or strawberry IPM in your region.
4. 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.
5. Deadline for conference registration. Travel must take place **before September 1, 2008**.
6. List of expenses being requested.
7. List of in-kind or matching funds (not required).

Submit your application electronically to acavanagh@psis.umass.edu and in hard copy to:

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Timetable and review process

Applications are being accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. You will receive confirmation that we received your application within three business days. Applications received after October 19 and before November 20 will be reviewed at the end of November. Applications received after November 20 will be reviewed as they received. Please allow 4 weeks for review. 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.

October 1, 2007 – updated November