

IMPACT



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Pacific Northwest Pest Management Workgroup

The Situation

Four regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Centers were created six years ago by the United States Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (USDA-CSREES). The purpose of the regional centers is to address a crucial gap in information flow between agricultural producers, university researchers, environmental organizations, and regulatory agencies dealing with pest management. Before the centers were founded, these entities had no formal pathways to share information, no mechanism to set priorities and few means of sharing information to further IPM adoption. The Western Region Center encompasses 14 western states including Alaska, Hawaii and Micronesia, and deals with several hundred diverse and economically important minor crops. Since the Pacific Northwestern states have had past experiences working jointly and collaborating on regional pest management issues, the PNW Workgroup was formed to deal with specific pest management needs of PNW commodities.

Our Response

Since 2001, Pacific Northwestern states have acted as a flexible coalition, united by similar crops and cropping systems and the shared objective of promoting Integrated Pest Management in agricultural settings. Meeting at least two times each year, the workgroup has collaborated on a number of projects benefiting our constituents.

The workgroup is comprised of pest management Extension Specialists from University of Idaho, University of Alaska, Montana State University, Oregon State University, Utah State University and Washington State University. By sharing resources, the workgroup has maximized expertise and minimized duplication of effort. The result is not only economic efficiency but numerous measurable outcomes.

The workgroup has promoted improved communication and collaboration among stakeholders. There is positive, productive cooperation among growers, processors, Extension personnel, researchers and environmental groups. Crop Profiles have been developed on 86 PNW regional crops and 16 crop specific Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs) have been completed. The PNW Workgroup established a unique Comments Coordinator position to track regional emerging pest management issues and to advise USDA and EPA on real-world critical pesticide use data. Through the Comments Coordinator, the workgroup has provided feedback to USDA and EPA on 36 pesticides impacting more than 80 regional crops. This feedback mechanism is now being emulated in other parts of the country.

Several other projects have been developed and coordinated regionally: maintenance of websites to disperse and archive pest management information, region-wide pest alerts and weather/forecasting models, region-wide projects and partnerships with water quality and endangered species impacts,

creation of the OnePlan with NRCS for farm planning, and region-wide pest management handbooks for diseases, insects and weeds.

Program Outcomes

The Pacific Northwest Workgroup has been able to identify pest management issues in PNW commodities and facilitate communication and collaboration in order to avoid duplication of efforts. The following outcomes are a result of PNW Workgroup efforts.

- The IR-4 minor use pesticide program has raised the priority rank of pesticides identified by the workgroup's crop profiles and PMSPs.
- EPA has accelerated registration of pesticides identified by the workgroup's crop profiles and PMSPs.
- USDA has used our data to support minor crop production.
- PNW growers have open dialogue with EPA and USDA on pesticide usage data.
- Several pesticide uses have been maintained for minor crops as requested by the Comments Coordinator.
- Use of real-world data has changed EPA risk evaluation to, in many cases, favor PNW minor crops.
- PNW growers have more tools available that aid them in IPM implementation.
- PNW growers have increased their use of IPM practices.
- NRCS is providing cost share incentives for adopting IPM practices.
- PNW growers, researchers, and agencies function as true partners.



For More Information

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