EQIP and IPM for Specialty Crop Growers

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“Since 1935, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (originally called the Soil Conservation Service) has provided leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources.”
Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals.

- EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

“A system in which a combination of methods is used to maintain pest populations at low levels while allowing for profitable production with minimal adverse effects on the environment”

Foster and Flood (2005)
“…despite widespread scientific literature showing that IPM practices provide effective pest control and improved environmental stewardship, EQIP – USDA’s best-funded program for promoting on-farm stewardship – has generally failed to promote IPM.”
Past EQIP investment in IPM – 1997-2002

Nationwide: 0.77%
Top ten: 2.3%
No.<1%: 35

% state EQIP budget to IPM

Brewer et al. 2004
Hoard & Brewer 2006
Past EQIP investment in IPM - 2005-06

2005/06
Nationwide: 2.8%

% state EQIP budget to IPM

Brewer et al. 2004
Hoard & Brewer 2006
NRDC Recommendations (partial list)

- Implement IPM initiatives in priority regions
- NRCS should recognize the multiple benefits of IPM
- Provide TSPs with more training in IPM
- Revise standards to promote pest prevention, pesticide use reduction, biological approaches, and use of least hazardous pesticides
Indiana EQIP - 2008

- Standards for Pest Management (595) provide incentive payments for basic pest management of $4.00 per acre with a maximum of $2000 per farm
- Follow all pesticide label setbacks
- 3 pest scouting trips/year and only apply pesticides if Purdue thresholds are exceeded or threats are predicted by Purdue specialists
Standards for Pest Management (595) provide incentive payments for high pest management of $10.00 per acre, with a maximum of $5000 per farm.

Follow all guidelines for basic pest management.

Grow 3 different crops in 3 consecutive years.
## Indiana EQIP

### Financial Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>$ Obligated</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$ 4.0 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$ 6.8 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$ 8.6 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$8.3 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$ 10.0 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$10.7 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$ 19.6 M</td>
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## 2008 EQIP Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No-Till</td>
<td>$3,400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cover Crops</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrient Management</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pest Management</td>
<td>$700,000*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crop Rotation</td>
<td>$97,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Borders</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windbreaks</td>
<td>$5,700</td>
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<td>Filter Strips</td>
<td>$612</td>
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</table>

*3.57%
2006: I joined the “NRCS and IPM Working Group: Grower Incentives for IPM” funded by the NC IPM Center.

2007: Began conversations with NRCS in Indiana (primarily Tony Bailey) about increasing IPM funding in EQIP

2008: Received small grant from IPM Institute to hold focus group session with specialty crop growers
Proposed Incentive Program for 2009

- Vegetables, basic pest management - $30/acre with maximum of $4500
- Fruit, basic pest management - $60/acre with maximum of $6000
- Use of Precision Equipment with the capability of directed spray or shutting off individual nozzles - $20/acre with maximum of $5000
- Standards are not finalized; don’t spend the money yet
What Should You Do?

- Wait until the standards are officially announced
- Talk to your district conservationist (DC)
- Together with DC, you will determine what an appropriate IPM program is
Examples of IPM Practices that Could be Considered

- Scouting for European red mites, aphids, leafhoppers, etc.
- Use of disease forecasting systems
- Use of pheromone traps to monitor some pests
- Selecting pesticides that conserve natural enemies
- Using reduced risk pesticides instead of older pesticides such as OPs
What Will We Be Doing?

- The Purdue IPM Program will provide pest management training for DCs so that they can administer the program more effectively.
- We will continue to provide IPM training for growers.
- We will be available for consultation with DCs and growers in devising pest management plans.
Discussion