

The third NEERA1306 SAES-422 annual meeting was held on December 2, 2105 at the Alson H. Smith, Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Winchester, VA as part of the 2015 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) Working Group Meeting. During the presentation portion of the meeting, several project participants presented results of studies conducted during the summer of 2015.

These included:

Delaware – United Soybean Update

Rutgers – Northeast Pest Status Update; OREI Project Update

The business portion of the meeting was held during lunch. During the meeting participants discussed a variety of subjects. Key highlights included:

1. A discussion of the group's authorization/renewal schedule and how each institution provides money, if any, to members to support their activities related to the group. Some institutions provide travel support to the meeting. Others provide funds to conduct research.
2. A discussion of how long it takes BMSB to move out of urban area where they tend to invade first into agricultural crops. The question arose because Delaware has experienced increased populations in urban areas but very little in agricultural crops other than peaches. The consensus was that we don't know enough yet about their behavior to be able to predict this and that it might be a field scale issue. The group did feel though that eventually Delaware will find them in other crops.
3. The group then had a general discussion about overwintering survival and the impact of the extremely low temperatures during 2015 on survivorship and how we can get a better handle on this. Last winter, West Virginia, Virginia, New Jersey, North Carolina and Maryland put out wooden boxes loaded with adult stink bug in an attempt to study spring emergence from overwintering sites. Each box was deployed in a protected shelter with a temperature monitor. When the spring emergence from these boxes was followed, some states experienced up to 80% mortality in their boxes while others did not. The group felt this might have been due to low winter temperatures because in some locations temperature lows were well below zero at night which is below the thermal death point for BMSB. The general consensus was that we need to repeat this study and adjust for very low temperatures when they are predicted to occur by moving the boxes to cold rooms during the cold event to prevent or reduce mortality. It was announced that Georgia will be joining the study.

The final discussion was regarding the next annual meeting. It was agreed that it should again be held in conjunction with the 2016 BMSB Working Group meeting.