

NCERA-221 meeting agenda (online-Zoom)

All meetings 12-1 central; 1-2 eastern

July 9, 2021

Outreach and Extension

Attendees:

Watkins

Patton

Thoms

Li

Soldat

Frank

Gardner

Friell

Morris

Reiter

Christians

Koch

Vargas

Horgan

Introduction

Eric Watkins, University of Minnesota

Eric Watkins opened up the first meeting with a brief introduction detailing the format and speakers for the three scheduled online meetings. He also updated the group on the successful NCERA-221 project renewal and thanked those who participated.

Presentation: Update on new and ongoing Extension projects

Maggie Reiter, University of Minnesota and Aaron Patton, Purdue University

Maggie Reiter updated the group on a new turfgrass decision dashboard that will soon be made available for free to turfgrass managers and other users. The dashboard was built as a coordinated effort between UMN USpatial and the UMN Turfgrass Science/Extension team. The dashboard includes integrated weather data along with graphical representations of important turfgrass management decision models such as the Smith-Kerns dollar spot model. The group discussed approaches to widen the utility of the dashboard to include other NC states as funding becomes available.

NTEP Update

Kevin Morris, NTEP

Kevin Morris, Executive Director of NTEP gave an update on the new NTEP database and discussed plans for rolling out the database to users. The advisory board is planning several upcoming trials and once finalized, university collaborators in the NC region will be contacted.

July 30, 2021

Updates on Newly Funded Projects

Attendees:

Watkins

Patton

Li

Soldat

Gardner

Friell

Morris

Reiter

Christians

Koch

Vargas

Merewitz

Xiong

Presentation: USDA-ARS / UW Ecosystem Services of Turfgrass Research

Doug Soldat and Paul Koch, University of Wisconsin

Paul Koch and Doug Soldate updated the group on new projects funded through the USDA-ARS on ecosystem services of turfgrasses. Projects include reducing fungicide use in turf systems and quantifying ecosystem services benefits of turf systems. Opportunities for collaborations with other NC researchers are likely.

Discussion: Funding multistate research

Kevin Morris updated the group on new turfgrass research funding opportunities and efforts. First he described the process that led to increased turfgrass research funding through USDA-ARA. Next, he explained how a sod checkoff effort could result in several million dollars each year in new research funding.

August 20, 2021

Attendees:

Watkins

Thoms

Li

Gardner

Friell

Morris

Reiter

Christians

Koch

Vargas

Merewitz

Xiong

Nangle

Horgan

Collaborative Research Projects

Presentation: Organic Weed Control project update

Dave Gardner, Ohio State

Gardner gave a presentation on a multi-state organic weed control project. Performance of organic products was variable; however, sites with lower initial weed pressure showed the most promising results. The group discussed next steps, including continuing the project for an additional year so that corn gluten meal effects might be seen. Other future collaborations include roadside turfgrass cultivar trials, pending funding.

Next year's meeting will be held at the University of Nebraska, hosted by Keenan Amundsen.