**April 23**

**NEERA 1604 Virtual Meeting**

**9:00am-3:00pm**

Attendees: Alejandro Calixto, Rakesh Chandran, Mary Concklin, Nancy Cusumano, James Dill, Jim Farrar, Deb Grantham, Kelly Hamby, Ann Hazelrigg, Jana Hexter, Rob Koethe, David Owens, Kevin Judd, Glen Koehler, David Lane, Audrey Moore, Vijay Nandula, Rose Ogutu, Mike O’Neill, Ed Rajotte, Susannah Reese, Hilary Sandler, Margaret Smith, Lisa Tewksbury, Anna Wallingford, Mike Webb, Simon Zebelo

1pm additions: Jim Farrar, Carol Glenister

NEERA-1604 AGENDA

9 am: convene and introductions

NIFA update from Vijay Nandula

The EIP review panel will be held next week, and the ARDP review panel in mid-May. Funding should be announced in mid-June.

To apply for a No Cost Extension due to COVID issues, a letter is needed from the ADR/contracts and grants liaison. Send a justification to Vijay for why it is needed in advance so they can get it in the works. The NCE can be for 49% or less (of the total grant amount?). There’s a push to increase CPPM funding above the $20M mark to $25M for FY 2022.

USDA is still hiring lot of people in KC. USDA staff are all still working from home and no idea when they will be reporting to the office.

NIFA has a New Farm of the Future RFA $4M of funding to establish a new grant using latest farming technologies. There’s a listening session on May 6. 1 award for 3-5 years. There will be an actual farm. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDANIFA/bulletins/2cd2eb8>

(Note: I could not find a webpage for this initiative, only the announcement in the weekly NIFA update, and the registration page for the listening session.)

Ed: Will upcoming RFAs include any climate change language?

NIFA Administrative Priorities are: Climate change, COVID-19, Racial Equity, and Economy

Dr. Duane Goldman racial equity director under Tom Vilsack spoke to NIFA staff about increasing racial diversity of NIFA, via hiring, funding, all across the board.

Vijay – are you all receiving the NIFA support that you are expecting? He wants to make sure you have all you need from NIFA. If there is anything else you need, ask.

Kathy Kimble-Day is a big help.

9:30 am: State Reports: 5 minutes slides from each state (plus some Q&A)

ME- [AgRadar Weather](https://mco.umaine.edu/ageye/index_v5.php) live, interactive charts

Export button on that page allows you to download CSV hourly forecast and observation data file for each site.

They ran a training where attendees could receive cross-state pesticide applicator credits. 6 NE states and NY, and Vt handled the crediting. NY had to do an additional step. All 6 NE states have reciprocity for crediting.

NY DEC has an ID requirement that has to be worked around. Rules are kept by state lead agencies.

As a group we should request with that group to discuss this. Sarah Kingsley-Richards at UVM would be a good one to ask about this. There are ways to insure attendance. Each attendee has a unique log in and then have poll questions mid-way to make sure they are paying attention. They have to answer the question to move on. In DE they had a QR code to a series of questions to make sure they were paying attention – proof of attendance. Solves the problem of the back-end work. Is there a technology breakdown? Not too much.

State lead agencies are responding to the EPA. States are updating their state plans for training. Rob: One aspect they are discussing is reciprocity. There have to be ways where all 3 Regions in the NE and the Center can make progress.

Deb will work on a follow up email to NEERA/State lead agencies and EPA.

NEERA might be better taking the lead in this, as the State IPM coordinators have this under their purview.

[Powerpoint from EPA OPMP on PMSPs and crop profiles](https://cornell.app.box.com/s/q9h4r3s4zh4h7lk88r80usqg1vg8x05a)

MD – [translation of blog posts to Spanish](https://extensionesp.umd.edu/)

Dr. Megan Fritz from UMD is working with MD department of public health on tick sampling, tick identification, and sampling cattle operations. They have detected Asian Longhorned tick in MD.

UMD Eastern Shore – has 5 or 6 faculty establishing a medical entomology center in plant path and entomology.

MA-Also doing Spanish outreach. Mike Raupp is retiring

NH-More coordination in the region re ticks. Maybe we need a NE Tick WG? NH George Hamilton is also retiring. Plant path position posting – Anna will send it around when it comes out.

NY-[Into the Weeds podcast](https://nysipm.cornell.edu/agriculture/weed-ipm/) with Brian Brown. Alejandro is also concentrating on Spanish language resources.

PA- Maria Gorgo research on LatinX stats.

RI-[Learn at Home webinar series](https://web.uri.edu/coopext/events/); Vegetable IPM Newsletter

VT- [UVM IPM Fruit Program Youtube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWqkQRn17gChsTnV80zWSRw)

WV-IPM mini grants info –

NRCS quarterly meetings for every state - get to those and put your proposal on the table.

11:30 am: NEERA renewal proposal-Margaret Smith

Thanks to David Owens for coordinating the Multi-state pre-proposal. The report is submitted, and we are waiting for the next meeting of the multi state activities regional committee. The NE proposal came in after the last meeting so it will be discussed at the next one. Once approved we will get approval to write the full proposal. We are in the waiting stage. Jan Nyrop is head of that committee. Not sure how often they meet. Margaret will connect with him or David can.

What more is needed for a full proposal? Several more sections but should not be a lot of new information, should be able to get it off previous proposals.

David has current proposal in a google doc he can share with others.

Mike O’Neill, director of the CT Ag Experiment Station, will be stepping down. His replacement will be announced.

1 pm: Strategic Vision for IPM, presenter Jim Farrar, UC Ag & Natural Resources and Director, UC Statewide IPM Program, Chair of NIPMCC (National IPM Coordinating Committee, http://escop.info/committee/nipmcc/ , a committee of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) and the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) and shall function as a subcommittee of the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee that makes recommendations to ESCOP and ECOP on programs, policies, reports, and other matters that affect pest management implementation, and make recommendations on budget matters relating to pest management).

Concept discussion of a strategic vision for IPM Network; IPM Research and Extension Enterprise, a group with common goals and needs. How do state programs who are normally competing for funds aggregate as a group? NIPMCC and Regional IPM Centers are on board. He has been speaking to the ERA regional groups for their buy in. There will be a smaller group chosen to write a draft.

What might the next practical steps be if we go in this direction?

What would this accomplish? Big goals – what can IPM achieve in the US. No budgetary constraints. What would the structure look like?

Anna – One of the biggest strengths of IPM is that it is tailored to the groups we serve. A big crisis right now is no grant writers. No time or funding for research. They look to the bigger entities in the NE – Cornell, Penn State for research. Her smaller University doesn’t have the staff or capacity for that. All the new crop of entomologists wants to learn about is pollinators and nothing else. There’s a lull in targeted research. They are reaching out to farmers and the ag community.

Public sentiment impacts her research dollars. Her institution will not give her funds to do no till research because it will use glyphosate.

Ed- One big objective should be to rewrite the IPM Road Map. Ed agrees that we are not training the next generation of IPM students. Needs to be some budget behind that. Start to replace all of us who are getting ready to retire. IPM is a global issue. Can we partner with developing countries? It is important and not happening. How are those countries growing the food the US imports? Are they using IPM? Is IPM a process? Or and end-point? Re-defined as a process. Re-orient it as a process to reach a goal that you as a farmer or consumer think is important.

There was a study in the early ‘80’s that researched IPM use in 9 commodities around the country. Maybe need an updated one of these - ROI for IPM Programming.

Kelly – Agrees with Anna. She is also lacking in resources, both financial and personnel - while expectations have not changed. Branding of IPM. People do not know what it is.

Rakesh- Multiple facets – 30-40% food waste, manage pests, resistance. These all need a multi-disciplinary approach. The young people are very green-aware. How can we harness that?

Hilary- human resources are critical! UMass Extension, from which IPM is disseminated, as an example, has an 75-80% decrease in capacity since 1990.

Lisa- We are not getting replacements of extension faculty after they retire at URI as well.

Jim F – the public is asking for reduced risk in pest mgmt. – food, bees, labor everywhere. “safer”. If that is what the public is asking for, the public needs to invest. Land grant universities have a good access to international entities.

We are not re-defining IPM. That is not the goal here.

The Road map was updated in 2018. That is something USDA does, IPM Centers are not able to update it on their own.

UC Davis is now a glyphosate free campus – the goals are being defined buy interest groups. So what are the other options if no glyphosate?

Vijay – Road map update took 18 months to complete. Redefining IPM is missing the point. IPM is a tool. Pool our resources, funding is shrinking not expanding. Find layman’s language to describe IPM. Sounds too elitist to the general public.

Glen – What is the goal – what are your endpoints? ROI of IPM. A good place to start. How/Is IPM paying its bills?

Jim – Better footing from federal funding. CARR and RAMP were never replaced – just wrapped into CPPM. States are chasing the dollar.

Common language for talking to the public, that they understand. Not Green-washing but science-based that general public can understand. It would be written by a group from around the country and varying disciplines. Whatever can get us toward the goal of reduced risk pest management.

Ed- remain visible during to this administration so we get a part of any increase. At least in the short term.

David O – expand no till in the Mid Atlantic. Neonics were so important when they were first developed.

Margaret: Is this part of, related to, or otherwise associated with the move in USDA toward the Tactical Sciences Initiative?

Vijay: There is a link. Tactical Sciences Initiative is still ramping up with funding.

Deb –Marty Draper is leading the Tactical Sciences Initiative (has a funded project) and we should keep it in mind, look at and talk to him about. Use it as another outlet.

The focus of what the Centers was talking about with Marty was to place IPM in a secure food systems context. He started with the IPM centers.

Three NIPMCC white papers just released. Links to NIPMCC papers[: Overview of IPM,](http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/NIPMCC_OVERVIEW_FINAL_20210414.pdf) [Resistance](http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/NIPMCC_RESISTANCE_FINAL_20210414.pdf) and [Invasive Species](http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/NIPMCC_INVASIVES_FINAL_20210414.pdf)

David -what is this [Tactical Sciences Initiative](https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/Tactical-Sciences-report-on-conversation.pdf)? It tackles the Ag biosecurity angle of food production. Animal and plant health.

Jim – [Walmart IPM push](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cdebor%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CXS0OV5PD%5C.%20https%3A%5Ccorporate.walmart.com%5Cnewsroom%5C2021%5C04%5C13%5Crestoring-pollinator-habitats-is-key-to-feeding-the-future). What are those third party standards? Maybe that is where we can have some impact. Pollinator protection program. Who does Walmart turn to to certify their growers. We can have input there. We need to get ahead of this so that when growers come asking we have an answer. Get Walmart to pony up funds.

<https://sustainablefoodgroup.org/walmart-pollinator-policy/>

Getting the general public consumer to understand what IPM is is the barrier. We need a simpler message.

What is the incentive for growers to do this? Do the growers benefit from this? Walmart is a huge market, so that is one incentive.

USDA Org cert – everyone know what that is. IPM-certified? Do state gov’t have their own standards? Walmart can throw their weight around and tell state/federal governments what to fund.

David: Crop consultants in DE have to file a crop profile. It’s easier for him, he just has to talk to the one consultant instead of talk those growers.

PCA system for the rest of the country? Yes! Promotes self-policing if it is not the right thing to do. Big leap for the rest of the country.

Any study on how this has affected IPM in California? Not that he is aware of. This should be done! Pesticide distribution companies scout farmer fields for free. This is a conflict.

What is being done right now? From CA to the NE, there are such variances. Maybe that could be part of the discussion.

[Private consulting survey (1989](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/230730205_Analysis_of_Private_Consulting_Firms_in_Integrated_Pest_Management))

Jim – so is the NEERA committee interested in this strategic document, and is anyone willing to be on this committee?

Not hearing any NO don’t do this, he is going to take that as a Yes.

Redefine extension also. Can I teach someone how to do their own monitoring or do I have to do it for them?

[Maybe we have to tolerate a certain amount of weeds, pests, pathogens](https://www.scientia.global/dr-rakesh-s-chandran-sustainable-weed-coexistence-in-corn-crops/) instead of treating for every single one.

1:30 pm: Definition of IPM discussion (with invited Northeast IPM Advisory Committee members

2013 definition: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a science-based, decision-making process that identifies and reduces risks from pests and pest management related strategies.

2018 definition: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a sustainable, science-based, decision-making process that combines biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools to identify, manage and reduce risk from pests and pest management tools and strategies in a way that minimizes overall economic, health and environmental risks

Kelly: The definition she uses and teach: IPM is a science-based decision-making process that uses multifaceted management approaches to increase profitability while protecting human health and the environment.

Can Kelly send us her chart? A place to start.

The definition should not change for the scenario. IPM is IPM. IPM is the same in org as it is in conventional. The process is the same even if the outcome is different. The IPM Continuum. Move your clients along the continuum.

How does this discussion affect evaluation? If it is a moving target, how do you evaluate a moving target? What happens when the old tools fail? Do we currently have trustworthy tools to use? Have these tools been updated in the last 20 years? If not, are they valuable?

Case study analysis. Tell the stories.

[1987 IPM evaluation](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281748423_The_National_Evaluation_of_Extension%27s_Integrated_Pest_Management_IPM_Programs-Main_Report) paper

Make a place for lots of people to put their definition, distill it down to a word cloud. See what words show up as the most important. Another survey for this to a broad base of diverse groups. consumers to growers.

Glen and Jim (Maine) are NEERA chairs next year. David will work with them on finishing the proposal.

The NEERA meeting next year will take place at the IPM Symposium in person in Denver in March 2022.

Deb will ask for a room from the IPM Symposium.

File the NIMSS report within 60 days from now.

Resources:

[USDA Food Loss and Waste Innovation Fair](https://www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste/news/innovation-fair) - May 26, 2021, 12-4 pm EST

Virtual and Free registration

Reference for IPPM. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/277960363_Integrated_Pest_and_Pollinator_Management_-_Adding_a_New_Dimension_To_An_Accepted_Paradigm>

How to get school IPM manual <https://extension.psu.edu/ipm-for-pennsylvania-schools-and-childcares-a-how-to-manual> -free pdf available