
PRONewEngland Project Update

May 23, 2006

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* = RESPONSE or ACTION NEEDED

1. Contract and Funding

NH and VT signed budgets have been received. We are still waiting for CT, MA and RI signatures. Each state was contacted on May 22 for a status update.

2. Stakeholder Survey

In place of a regional stakeholders meeting in 2005, we agreed to conduct phone calls to each of the stakeholder organizations and government/University programs listed for our state on PRONewEngland. We set the week of May 22-26, 2006 as the best time to make those calls.

The purpose of the calls is to reinforce the introductory letter they received in the January mailing and to take a census of stakeholder concerns and suggestions. During the call, we will ask for feedback to these questions:

1. What pest issues are most important to you?

2. What comments or suggestions do you have for the university and government programs in your state that deal with pest issues?

3. Have you been to the PRONewEngland.org web site? If so, has any of the information you received via the site been useful or had other impact?

4. Do you have any suggestions for the web site; suggested pest management survey topics; or an idea for a regional pest management educational meeting?

This involves 199 calls across the six states. Individual state counts are as follows:

- * **Candace** CT: Univ.&Gov-6, Private-15 = 21
- * **Natalia** MA: U&Gov-8, Private-17 = 25
- * **Glen and Jim** ME: U&Gov-14, Private-32 = 46
- * **Alan** NH: U&Gov-6, Private-28 = 34
- * **Peggy** RI: U&Gov-5, Private-13 = 18
- * **Ann and Sarah** VT: U&Gov-9, Private-11 = 20
- * **Glen and Jim** New England: U&Gov-16, Private-19 = 35

In order to compile the responses to report to the Northeastern IPM Center, I will need a report from each state. I have attached a simple form to help you keep track of responses in a format conducive to creating a combined regional summary.

3. School IPM Conference

In order to insure success of this conference we need to notify candidate participants now to get it December 5 reserved on their calendar. Knowing who to invite requires determining the purpose and agenda for the conference. It would be better to do that sooner than later.

Agenda items could include:
Status reports for school IPM in each state,
Presenting results from the New England School IPM Survey,
Resource sharing, and
Planning for coordinated action.

In that scenario, the meeting would be for state government, Extension and other people who have led, or would lead, school IPM educational and regulatory programs in each of the New England states.

When I gave the date to Kathy Murray who has been involved with school IPM for the Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Kathy provided a very useful list of regional contacts to Alan.

Our budget of \$3,500 for hotel meeting room, lodging, and meal expenses could support a meeting for about 20 people (not counting NEPMNet state liaisons) if they all needed overnight lodging and mileage reimbursement. More likely, with a one day meeting many if not most of the participants would not need lodging, so more people could be involved.

The most recent of the American Entomologist has an interesting commentary by Tom Greene in review of a book by Marc Lame of the University of Indiana about the current state of school IPM.

<http://www.entsoc.org/pubs/periodicals/ae/book%20reviews/A-Worm-in-the-Teacher's-Apple.htm>)

Our budget does not seem to allow for bringing in a speaker, but if Alan and the rest of the group think it would be good idea to do so, we could ask John Ayers for the additional funding needed to do so.

* Alan – please let us know how things are going, and what you need from the state liaisons to make this conference a success.

4. State Contact lists

* Candace, Natalia – The web site is complete except for your contact lists.

5. Web site

With recent formatting and organizational updates, except for the missing CT and MA contact lists, the PRONewEngland web site is as done as a web site gets. Updates to the News, Events, and Fact sheet databases are ongoing.

As you become aware of events and fact sheet additions or retractions in your state, please let me know.

We had over 124,384 visits and 21,680 unique visitors between May 1, 2005 and April 30, 2006. I say "over" because these counts do not include traffic that was not counted during the first several weeks after the server was moved in October 2005.