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From: Pat Byrne <pbyrne@lamar.colostate.edu>
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To: Linda Herbst <lherbst@ucdavis.edu>
Subject: Re: Quick Update on Work group Activities
X-Scanned-By: MIMEDefang 2.41

Linda,

I'm currently working on a proposal for continued funding for our work group on herbicide tolerant/insect resistant crops. I thought you might appreciate our progress report sooner rather than later, so here it is:

Progress Report: Western regional work group on IPM consequences of herbicide tolerant and insect resistant crops

The project has been successful in organizing a group of 11 research and extension professionals in the Western region who are actively involved in herbicide tolerant or insect resistant (HTIR) crops. The researchers are at four institutions: Colorado State University, Oregon State University, University of Arizona, and University of Idaho. We purchased video conferencing equipment and software (Polycom ViaVideo II) for all members of the group, and 10 of the members were able to easily install and use the equipment on their Windows-based computers. One member with a Mac computer was not able to connect, and we continue to explore software options to remedy this situation. The group has held three video conferences, two with large groups (8 to 10) and one with a small group (3). After initial troubleshooting and fine tuning, we were able to communicate effectively through this medium. The most significant issue discussed was the concern that HTIR crops have led to an over-reliance on a single method of weed or insect control, rather than an integrated package of methods, thus creating the potential for emergence of resistant weeds and insect pests.

The other activity undertaken by the work group has been to establish a web site to share information resources on HTIR crop issues. The site (at <http://lamar.colostate.edu/~htiripm/> <<http://lamar.colostate.edu/%7Ehtiripm/>>) is designed to provide easy access to a variety of information formats. Currently there are Fact Sheets, PowerPoint slide sets, news summaries, links to related sites, and descriptions of the work group members posted on the web site.

In summary, the work group has been organized and connected, and discussions have begun on the IPM consequences of HTIR crops in the West. The web site has been designed and established, and a variety of information materials have been posted. The stage is set for further progress and expansion of the group with a second year of funding.

Regards,
Pat Byrne