

Final Report for two proposals: OnePlan Workgroup and OnePlan Incorporating IPM Guidelines in NRCS Conservation Planning

A. Grant Data

1. K009607-ID4 and K009607-ID
2. Title: OnePlan IPM Planner Workgroup and Incorporation of IPM Guidelines in NRCS Conservation Planning
3. Type: Addressing Critical Issues in IPM
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5. Team members:
  - Dr. Ed Bechinski, Extension IPM Coordinator; University of Idaho
  - Dr. Paul Jepson, Oregon State University
  - Dr. Jeff Jenkins, Oregon State University
  - Dr. Catherine Daniels, Washington State University
  - Ms. Sandra Halstead, USEPA, Region 10
  - Mr. Gary McRae, USEPA, Region 10 (Idaho office)
  - Mr. Jerry Neufeld, UI Extension
  - Mr. Steve Reddy, UI Extension
  - Mr. Ralph Fisher, Idaho NRCS
  - Ms. Dee Carlson, Idaho NRCS
  - Mr. Wayne Newbill, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
6. States involved: Idaho, Oregon, Washington, EPA, NRCS, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
7. Funding year: 2004—2005
8. Funding amount: \$8,123 and \$15,195

B. Non-technical Summary

The OnePlan is currently a computer/web-based Conservation planning and Nutrient Management planning tool, utilized by growers NRCS. The IPM planner is a stand-alone portion to the Conservation planner. The IPM planner, when completed, will provide a pest management planning tool which incorporates IPM practices and guidelines. The IPM planner can be used as a stand-alone IPM tool or part of the Conservation planner. Either way, growers will be able to fulfill Farm Bill farm-planning and IPM requirements.

C. Introduction

Implementation and adoption of IPM practices to minimize adverse environmental risks from pesticides has long been a goal of pest management programs, including the National IPM Roadmap. In order to attain this goal, producers need to shift from traditional pesticide use to a more holistic consideration of all available IPM strategies. The OnePlan IPM Planner Workgroup has identified that utilizing the NRCS Conservation Planning

process and incorporating IPM guidelines into farm planning, growers have a planning tool they can utilize to help them make that shift. The workgroup helped to develop a process and a system to begin incorporating these IPM guidelines into the NRCS protocols.

D. Objectives

1. *Facilitate a team of pest management and farm planning experts to develop and design the IPM planner.*

A team of experts met three times, in Boise, ID. This team consisted of IPM experts from UI, WSU, and OSU. Sandy Halstead, Region 10 EPA, participated, as well as agronomists from NRCS, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and the Boise office of EPA.

The team developed an approach for getting this monumental task started.

2. *Identify a process/system for incorporating IPM guidelines and decision tools into NRCS Conservation plans.*

The approach is to begin with a “pre-season” planning process and not try to make IPM plan “adjustments” in season. The team recognized that the development of a complete IPM planner is a huge task, taking several years and additional resources and would end up as an “expert system” of some sort. Therefore, the team took the approach of “breaking the big task into smaller tasks”. We decided to begin with crops that have currently completed Pest Management Strategic Plans. The Team felt the PMSPs were helpful for garnering necessary data and expert information needed for the planning tool. There was also much discussion about working with OSU to promote the development of an on-line version of the PNW handbooks, to allow users to link to specific crop/pest information.

3. *Collaborate with NRCS to develop user incentives for IPM adoption reflecting reduced risks to human health and the environment.*

NRCS did participate in our workgroup and provided input regarding the EQIP program and the new Conservation Security Program (CSP). Idaho NRCS staff advised the workgroup on how producers might receive incentives for pest management practices. To date, this had not been done in the PNW area. We have also used the work from these two projects to move forward with additional functionality of the IPM planner, specifically for use with the CSP.

4. *Identify additional funding sources to build an IPM planner that would satisfy NRCS planning requirements.*

Most of the work, to date, has been done in Idaho. This is due to the original OnePlan project that began with nutrient management several years ago. Therefore, we did receive money, through the Idaho NRCS, to pay for contracted programmer’s time for portions of the IPM planner.

5. *Facilitate relationships with multiple government agencies and promote multi-organizational collaborations to reduce duplication of effort.*

The workgroup consisted of multi-government agencies and university experts from other states. NRCS acceptance was a key component to the

IPM planner, and they were very actively involved with the workgroup. NRCS and EPA had input for providing grower incentives for the use of IPM. NRCS has since allowed for 2 pest management practices to be added to EQIP incentive payments. As a result of these projects, some members of the OnePlan workgroup have met with University of California IPM staff to collaborate on programming and on-line access to IPM information.

E. Approach

We formed a multi-state, multi-agency workgroup to help design a process for building IPM “pages” for an on-line IPM planning tool. The approach was to design “flow-diagrams”, to be utilized by a programmer, incorporating several IPM practices and resources for IPM information that would be needed while developing a pest management plan. The approach was to utilize an “expert systems” approach by crop and pest type. The workgroup realized this is a very large task, and will take several years and additional resources to complete. The workgroup identified a couple of areas that might be helpful in building these “expert systems”; (1) on-line versions of the PNW pest management handbooks; (2) collaboration with the UC-IPM program and their computer delivery system (3) utilization of pest management strategic plans.

The workgroup decided to break this task down into smaller tasks, and decided to develop only the pre-season planning portion; leaving the in-season decision making to a later time. We recognized that each state needs to work with the individual NRCS state offices, since NRCS operates at the state and local level for farm planning. NRCS acceptance of IPM guidelines, and the IPM planning process is key to the success of this project, therefore, we utilized NRCS staff expertise in all aspects of the project.

A few members of the workgroup have received additional funding from the WR IPM Center to develop a simplified version of an IPM matrix for crops produced in the Idaho CSP sign-up areas. We continue to work collaboratively with NRCS to proceed with this simplified version of the OnePlan.

F. Progress

See information in Section D “Objectives”

G. Results

The Workgroup/project helped identify a process and a system for utilizing farm planning to deliver IPM guidelines and resources to producers. They identified that the NRCS system may provide incentives to producers for implementing pest management practices that reduce the risks to the environment and human health, but it must be addressed at the state level for each NRCS office. We believe utilizing the OnePlan with the NRCS programs is a more effective method of implementing IPM, with producers. The OnePlan IPM planner was not completed with these projects, however, the process and needs identified by the workgroup were helpful in securing

additional funding to develop a crop/pest matrix decision support tool in order to deliver a simplified, but more-timely version of the IPM planner. This simplified version will provide the necessary resources and documentation for producers enrolling in the CSP, and possibly EQIP programs at NRCS. The more detailed decision support tool and “expert system” will take more time and resources, and is not feasible for immediate use.

The OnePlan IPM planner has been collaborating with the UC IPM program in order to share programming resources in some areas of program delivery. This will continue. We believe this was an unexpected event that has proven valuable to both projects. We collaborated with Potato Growers of Idaho (PGI) and the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) to encourage the Idaho NRCS State Office to allow for 2 pest management practices to be part of the 2006 EQIP program. The use of green manures and field scouting were practices eligible for cost-sharing for those producers qualifying in the NRCS program.

The development of the OnePlan IPM planner is continuing, and there are plans for a peer review and testing of the planning tool, in fall and winter 2006-2007.

H. Impacts

The project, when completed, has the potential to reduce pesticide use and risk on farms.

The project provided input for the development of a quicker planning tool—which will enable us to get farm plans promoting IPM on the ground in a more timely manner.

Two pest management practices were adopted by Idaho NRCS for use with the EQIP program. (first time for Idaho NRCS)

I. Appendices

Websites of interest:

[www.conservation-planner.org](http://www.conservation-planner.org)

[www.OnePlan.org](http://www.OnePlan.org)

A flyer is being sent through the mail