

ALASKA PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FY 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I. Alaska Pest Management Program (APMP) Information Network

A. Objectives

1. Serve as the primary information source for USDA regarding use and usage of pesticides and other IPM tactics in all IPM settings for Alaska.
2. Partner with Regional Information Coordinator (Jane Thomas) to support regional information network that can respond to information requests from USDA, EPA and others within a short time frame.
3. Utilize local and regional meetings of diverse groups of stakeholders interested in IPM to identify critical issues.
4. Maintain and continuously upgrade a web site for the network.
5. Aid in identification of appropriate individuals to address IPM tactics use surveys, crop profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs).

B. Accomplishments

1. APMP worked with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to make sure all pesticides used in state were registered. At least five additional pesticides were registered through direct efforts of the APMP in 2005-2006; and we were also instrumental in dropping two product registrations. PI was again pesticide consultant and co-applicator on a model IPM Orange Hawkweed Control Project (at remote Kenai Peninsula community). A devil's club control demonstration continues through 2006. We continue to seek label clarification (PHI) for use of MCPA on Alaska grass hay crops. Through the IR-4 Program (PI is also state SLR of IR-4 Program) and Dow Chemical Co. we are seeking a 24C classification for Lontrel (clopyralid) use on Alaska lawns and turf to help fight well established orange hawkweed infestations statewide. The paperwork has been submitted and we are waiting to hear from ADEC on a timeframe.

The APMP invited Western Region IR-4 Coordinator Rebecca Sisco to attend and present an IR-4 overview at our annual Potato and Vegetable Conference in the spring of 2006, which was very well received. A future (July) visit by Dr. Steve Fennimore (UC-Weed Specialist) is the direct result of Ms. Sisco's efforts to help local vegetable growers with their weed control needs.

2. Through comments Coordinator Jane Thomas, APMP responded to multiple pesticide use requests, pertinent to Alaska.
3. APMP maintained an adhoc Advisory Committee in 2005-2006. The Advisory Committee met in 2006, to discuss Alaska-based IPM issues. Little changed federally for Alaska in 2005-2006 and grower members remained (like 2003) more focused on new/alternative pest prevention with the reintroduction of late blight disease (fourth time in history) and its control. 2005 was the first year late blight diseased potatoes went into winter storage.
4. Janice Chumley (half-time WIPM Center funded employee) again successfully maintained and upgraded the Alaska Web Page in 2005-2006. Her efforts have been essential in developing not only the web page, but the Alaska Pest Management Program, as well. WIPM Center funding acknowledgement was added to the home page of our website, per regional request. More than 1400 hits have been received on our website this past year, which is more than 300x last year's numbers.
5. PI co-hosted PNW Forages PMSP with Ronda Hirnyck, U. Idaho. Much appreciated support came from the PNW Forage Worker's Group (Dr. David Hannaway: OSU – Regional Coordinator), the ten participating state's WIPM Center Coordinators and the two terrific facilitators: Ms. Linda Herbst and Mr. Joe De Francesco.

In 2006, a WIPM Center/APMP educational display was set up and manned at the Alaska State CNIPM Weed Control Conference.

APMP revised and updated all five of our Alaska Crop Profiles in 2006, at no additional costs to the WIPM Center (electronic copies to be sent to the WIPM Center by mid July).

Starting July 1, 2006 Mr. Peter Bierman will assume PI responsibilities for the Alaska Pest Management Program (APMP). I would like to thank Rick Melnicoe and Linda Herbst for their outstanding help and guidance in developing the APMP, over the past seven years. I would also like to thank the PNW Workgroup/Coalition for offering Alaska a place in their activities. Rick, Linda and the other regional colleagues making up the PNW Workgroup are some of the most outstanding professionals I have ever worked with. Their willingness to extend an invitation to Alaska (to participate), has made a tremendous difference both in the amount of new pest management information available to the citizens of Alaska (through the information network) and for the professional opportunities their association has brought to me.

