

Annual Progress Report to the Western Region IPM Center
Integrated Soil Nutrient and Pest (iSNAP) Water Quality Education Project
Mary Staben, Project Coordinator, Oregon State University
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The grant “Regionalized IPM Outreach: Buffers, Drift Management and BMPs to Protect Water Quality” was received to extend the iSNAP Education Project to growers in the Pacific Northwest. Project objectives are listed below and followed by recent project activities that contribute to achieving each objective.

Build upon the iSNAP Education Project partnership and its momentum to expand the scope of that project to include grower-specific information needs and education opportunities in the Pacific Northwest.

- The project coordinator is working with iSNAP Pest Management Team members and others to:
 1. Develop the drift, buffers and mitigation educational materials
 2. Organize and promote the half-day workshops
 3. Finalize the evaluation plan for the project
 4. Determine the process for creating and delivering the online education modules
- The iSNAP website supports project activities and provides access to numerous resources (new iSNAP Project URL <http://isnap.oregonstate.edu>).

Increase adoption by Pacific Northwest farmers and other decision makers, of drift management procedures, vegetative buffer practices and other BMP measures, to protect surface water resources. This project will also expand awareness of USDA cost-share programs.

- Workshop cooperators and sites have been selected for the three winter 2006 workshops. These workshops will show participants how weather information can be more fully utilized to improve application efficiency and product efficacy, reduce environmental impacts and increase farm profits. The first event will be held in Pocatello, ID in conjunction with the Idaho Potato Conference. Then in mid-February two events will be held, one in LeGrande, OR and the other in Toppenish, WA in cooperation with the Yakama Indian Nation. Proposed workshop presenters and topics include:

Paul Jepson: weather impacts on pesticide drift potential and practical techniques to reduce drift

Jeff Jenkins: pesticide risk mitigation options (including pesticide selection)

Len Coop: online pest models and resources to support pest management and weather impacts on pest biology

Sandy Halstead: design considerations for edge-of-field buffers that reduce pesticide loss and aid biological control

NRCS representatives: to provide information and answer questions about NRCS cost-share programs

- Online education modules will be developed in 2006 after the first series of workshops. Currently digital video camera, laptop and software options are being considered (not to be purchased with grant funds).

Evaluate project educational activities and materials, and determine the extent of implementation of IPM practices resulting from the project trainings.

- The regional resource assessment is currently being completed. This process began with a survey of existing Extension publications and other PNW resources. This information was put into tabular format by the following categories: pesticide fate and behavior, pesticide drift and loss, edge-of-field buffers, and weather. The project directors and coordinator decided to conduct this process by email and phone in order to engage more professionals across the region. A letter and the publication table were emailed to professionals that would likely have knowledge of and interest in the topics. Follow-up phone calls are being made to ensure an adequate level of input. The report will be submitted to the Western Region IPM Center by December 31, 2005.
- An evaluation tool has specifically been developed for use at these project workshops. The purpose of this evaluation is to allow for continuous improvements to the education materials and formats used at the training events. The evaluation tool will document changes in skills and abilities, as well as the usefulness of the three types of learning formats used in the workshops.
- An impact evaluation plan and tool have been developed by the project coordinator. This work has been reviewed by an evaluation specialist at OSU.
- In 2005, the project coordinator gave the following presentations to increase awareness of the iSNAP Education Project:
 1. A poster “The iSNAP Project: The Benefits and Challenges of an Outcome-based Education Project” at the Water, Wildlife and Pesticides in the West Symposium in Portland, OR in August 2005
 2. An oral presentation about the iSNAP Project highlighting the new WR IPM Center funded component was given in April 2005 at the WERA-069 meeting in Wilsonville, OR
 3. A poster “The iSNAP Project: A Regional Approach to Agricultural Professional Education” in March 2005 at the Western Region Nutrient Management Conference hosted by WERA-103 (Nutrient Management and Water Quality) in Salt Lake City, UT