

Dear Friend of IPM,

We are writing to update you on the financial future of the Northeastern IPM Center. As you may know, we have been federally funded for nearly a decade through a competitive USDA grant. The president's budget for fiscal year 2011 does not include funds for Regional IPM Centers or any of the other programs in a special USDA line known as "406 Integrated Programs."

Additionally, the newly created Agriculture Food and Research Initiative (AFRI; formerly NRI) recently announced its grants program and the Requests for Applications make very limited references to integrated pest management (see <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri.html>).

You have supported IPM in the past and we value your commitment to integrated pest management in the region and nationally. If you are in a position to voice your opinion about the benefit of integrated pest management and the Northeastern IPM Center, we encourage you to do so now.

For public employees, scientists, university staff, Extension educators, and others:

Request that regional IPM coordination and support, and specifically IPM Centers, be included in the next AFRI RFA by writing to RFP-OEP@nifa.usda.gov. In your comments, please specify the RFA to which you are responding (e.g., the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Foundational Program RFA or any of these other RFAs: Global Food Security, Sustainable Bioenergy, Food Safety, or Climate Change). Talking points about the Northeastern IPM Center are below. We also encourage you to forward this email to relevant networks, as appropriate.

For those in private industry, community members, growers, pest management consultants, members of nonprofits, and others:

Express your views to your elected representatives in Congress. Committees are meeting now. IPM Centers could be funded either through a restoration of USDA's 406 Integrated Programs line or through a specific category in AFRI. Below are talking points and information about Congressional House and Senate Agriculture and Appropriation Committees, respectively, including the websites where you may share comments. Please also forward this email to your networks, as appropriate.

Our unique strengths have helped us to nurture integrated pest management in the region and beyond. We would welcome an opportunity to continue serving in this capacity.

Best wishes,
Carrie Koplinka-Loehr, Co-director

TALKING POINTS

Northeastern IPM Center: Small Investment, Big Impacts

WHAT WE DO

- o **Protect food supplies and communities.** We stay in touch with people's needs and fund 30-40 IPM projects each year that focus on important pest problems.
- o **Make the most of public resources.** We help organizations to build on each others' success. An independent review team found that IPM Centers show an *impressive use of limited resources to maximize output* of projects. In 2006 that review team advised USDA to use IPM Centers as a model for future programs.
- o **Engage partners.** We serve as a hub where growers, scientists, consumers, government personnel, businesses, and environmental organizations can work together for practices that reduce risks to the environment and human health.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Helping urban residents combat pests. We coordinate a national project to reduce pests in public housing. With funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, we've already taught 200 maintenance and property staff how to manage pests in and around their buildings, and hundreds of tenants are receiving training as well (see our video at <http://www.stoppests.org/for-residents.htm>). Collaborators on this project include HUD, USDA, EPA, and nearly two dozen agencies and IPM consultants.

Helping growers protect the environment. Our Center partnered with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to train nearly 400 growers, NRCS staff, and Extension educators in practices that minimize environmental impacts *and* improve crop yield and pest control (<http://northeastipm.org/nrcs.cfm>). Farmers who attended the workshops plan to increase their use of IPM and conservation practices.

Enhancing sustainability in the marketplace. We collaborate with industry to give IPM growers improved access to markets. The Eco Apple working group helped to boost the market for IPM-grown apples in New England, with sales in 2008 of \$1.9 million (<http://www.redtomato.org/ecoapple.php>). We work with SYSCO, a worldwide food distributor that has urged its suppliers to actively support more sustainable environments in the production of food.

Sharing IPM knowledge with the world: nearly 3 million hits on our website since 2007. Through <http://northeastipm.org/> we've reached more than 120,000 visitors. Our most popular tool? The IPM Resources Database containing thousands of science-based IPM publications and information sources.

Promoting sustainable home landscapes. The Northeastern Community IPM Working Group, funded for years by our Center, focuses on growing green lawns with minimal pesticides. The group placed 150 posters on Maryland buses and displayed landscape posters at the U.S. Botanical Gardens in Washington, DC., where they reached nearly 100,000 visitors.

Connecting people who have great ideas. Our Center supports the International IPM Symposium with planning, financial assistance, and facilitation. In 2009, more than 700 people from nearly 30 countries attended this event, where they exchanged practical tools and expertise. The Vegetable IPM Working Group, with funding from our Center, awarded 20 IPM Travel Grants, reaching at least 5,000 stakeholders about IPM practices.

More information at <http://northeastipm.org/>

House Agriculture Appropriations Committee members from the Northeast:

Hon. Rosa DeLauro (Chair) CT http://delauro.house.gov/contact_form_email.cfm

Hon. Maurice Hinchey NY <http://www.house.gov/hinchey/contact/>

Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee members from the Northeast:

Hon. Jack Reed RI <http://reed.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm>

Hon. Arlen Specter PA <http://specter.senate.gov/public/index.cfm>

Hon. Susan Collins ME <http://collins.senate.gov/public/continue.cfm>

Senate Agriculture Committee members from the Northeast:

Hon. Patrick Leahy VT <http://leahy.senate.gov/contact/>

Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand NY <http://gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/>

Hon. Robert Casey, Jr. PA <http://casey.senate.gov/contact/>

House Agriculture Committee members from the Northeast:

Hon. Tim Holden (Vice chair) PA <http://holden.house.gov/>
Hon. Glenn Thompson PA <http://thompson.house.gov/contact/index.shtml>
Hon. Kathleen Dahlkemper PA <http://www.dahlkemper.house.gov/>
Hon. Frank Kratovil MD <http://kratovil.house.gov/>
Hon. Scott Murphy NY <http://scottmurphy.house.gov/>

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Every way of knowing becomes a way of living.

-Parker Palmer