

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Vegetable/Strawberry IPM Educator Exchange Program

Sponsored by the Northeast Vegetable IPM Working Group

Call for summer travel: Apply by July 30 for travel to take place before September 1, 2008!

Would you like to learn more about integrated pest management for vegetables or strawberries, but don't have funds for travel? Is there a field day meeting or field research project with a focus on IPM that you would like to attend? Do you have a commitment to sharing what you learn with growers?

The Educator Exchange Program will pay for qualified expenses to help agricultural professionals in the Northeast learn about and share integrated pest management practices. You may apply to travel to any educational program related to IPM that is outside your state—either within the Northeast or outside the region. You may also apply to make a special visit to another lab, research station, or region in order to learn about a special project or new working IPM that you want to bring back to growers in your area.

Who may apply

This program is open to growers, vegetable and/or strawberry specialists, Cooperative Extension educators or county agents, crop consultants, government agency staff, agricultural professionals in nonprofit organizations, or anyone who will be in contact with many vegetable or strawberry growers. The person must provide unbiased, research-based information and be a resident of a northeastern state. Successful applicants will have

- a demonstrated ability to present the information they gain to an audience of farmers in their home area;
- interest in, and involvement with, IPM-related subjects in vegetable or strawberry crops;
- a plan for follow up outreach activities: what will be learned at the proposed meeting should help the applicant address specific integrated pest management issues of importance to strawberries or a vegetable crop in their state or region.

Available funding

The maximum amount of money awarded will be \$800 per person. We will reimburse travel, registration fees, food (up to \$35 per day), and overnight accommodations.

What can be funded

1. **Travel requests to meetings or conferences in the Northeast, outside your state.** We prefer to fund programs that are *not* co-sponsored by your own state's Extension system (e.g., a regional conference).
2. Travel requests to **conferences or trainings that occur outside the Northeast region**, if the training will benefit northeastern growers.
3. **Self-designed educational opportunities**, such as visiting a farm, farming region, research project or laboratory where you can learn specific techniques or practices.

How you give back

Recipients will be required to share what they learn about vegetable and strawberry IPM.

Reaching new audiences with information is encouraged. Possible methods include

- presenting or organizing a program at a conference, workshop, or twilight meeting;
- writing newsletter articles that could also be posted on the Northeastern IPM Center website;
- working directly with growers to implement or evaluate a new practice;
- participating in the planning committee for the next vegetable or strawberry conference (or other educational program) in your home state; and
- making use of new professional contacts to invite speakers to the region.

How to apply

Application format (length: one to two pages):

1. Contact information: your name, title, name of your organization, address, email, and phone number.
2. Brief biography: your position, experience (length of time in position), and responsibilities.
3. Objective and rationale: what you want to learn and why it is important to implementation of vegetable or strawberry IPM in your region.
4. Statement of work telling us why you need the funds; what educational program you wish to attend; and ways in which you will share or use the information.
5. Deadline for program registration, if applicable. Summer travel must take place **before September 1, 2008**.
6. List of expenses being requested.
7. List of in-kind or matching funds (not required).

Submit your application electronically to acavanagh@psis.umass.edu and in hard copy to: Ruth Hazzard, Department of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences, 250 Natural Resources Way, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003, (413) 545-3696.

Timetable and review process

Applications are being accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. You will receive confirmation that we received your application within three business days. Funding of qualified proposals will be based on the availability of funds at the time of submission.