UTAH EXTENSION INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MINI-GRANT PROGRAM
CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 2008

WHAT IS IPM AND SUSTAINABILE AGRICULTURE?

Integrated pest management (IPM) and sustainable agriculture promote the use of appropriate pest management tools and technologies to solve pest (disease, insect, weed, vertebrate) problems. Methods include cultural, biological, and chemical techniques with an emphasis on reducing broad-spectrum pesticide use. Implementation of IPM and sustainable agriculture should be based on knowledge of the pest and ecosystem biology and ecology, and should consider relevant economic, environmental, and social factors.

GOALS OF THE UTAH IPM AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

1. To accelerate the adoption of IPM and sustainable agricultural practices in Utah via education outreach to other professionals and to the citizens of Utah.
2. To promote the use of IPM and sustainable agricultural systems in land use decision-making.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR FUNDS?

Proposals are requested from Utah State University Extension personnel for development of county, multi-county, and regional (within state) IPM and sustainable agriculture education, demonstration, and professional development projects to be conducted during 2008. Projects are encouraged that take advantage of cooperative efforts between agents and specialists. Research faculty can be involved, but proposals strictly for research will not be funded.

TARGET AREAS

Proposals should develop a county(ies)-based project that provide on-site demonstrations and/or train-the-trainer workshops on how specific IPM and sustainable agriculture systems can be used to solve pest problems of importance to stakeholders. Projects that develop educational tools (publications, PowerPoint slideshows, web-based materials, and other educational resources) are especially encouraged and these products should be designed to share with others (extension, other agricultural professionals, and interested stakeholders).

Successful projects will include aspects of the following:

- High potential for documenting reductions in pesticide use (as measured in appropriate units).
- Increased stakeholder profitability/sustainability (dollars saved, increased profit, reduced environmental costs, etc.).
- A major education outreach component to other professionals.
- Collaboration with Utah stakeholders (growers, homeowners, public agencies, etc.)
- Planned presentation of project results at a professional meeting and/or utilization of outcomes in train-the-trainer workshops.

Please contact Marion Murray (435-797-2516) and/or Robert Newhall (435-797-2183) if you need assistance with development of project ideas.

FUNDING INFORMATION

A total of $10,000 is available (funding sources are USDA CSREES National IPM Program and Utah WSARE Professional Development Program). Funds can be used for temporary assistance (hourly wages), supplies, travel, and for development and dissemination of educational materials. Funding is only for one year. A second year of funding can be requested with a new proposal. Subsequent funding is contingent on submission of a satisfactory report from the previous year and demonstration of adequate progress. Most single county projects are funded in the range of $800 to $1,200 and multi-county projects in the range of $1,000 to $3,000.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

Proposals should be brief (maximum of 5 pages) and must adhere to the following format:

1. *Title* – be descriptive
2. *Project Personnel* (list all that apply): Project leader(s) (agents, specialists), Collaborators (specialists, researchers, others), and Cooperators (growers, Master Gardeners, homeowners, public agency personnel, etc.)
3. *Situation Statement* – include background and justification
4. *Objectives* – clearly stated and narrowly focused
5. *Procedures* – provide a clear, detailed, and concise working plan and description of methods (who will do what, where and when will they do it, and how will they do it)
6. *Data Analyses & Presentation of Results* – include experimental plot design if relevant, how data will be analyzed, how and where results will be disseminated to the public and shared with other professionals
7. *Evaluation* – describe your plan to:
    a. Measure changes in knowledge and skills of professionals and/or stakeholders as a result of the project
    b. Discuss potential for changes in future county programs as a result of the project
8. *Educational Products* – list the educational products expected to be produced (PowerPoint, fact sheet, poster, published article, etc.)
9. *Educational Outreach* – list methods that will be used to assure distribution of educational products and related project materials to other agricultural professionals and stakeholders in the state
10. *Budget* – provide amounts and description of request for each budget category (payroll wages, supplies, travel, publication)

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals are evaluated by a committee composed of USU Extension IPM and WSARE staff, County Extension Agents, and relevant stakeholders. Funding is awarded based on the following criteria (maximum score for each category: 5 points; maximum score for a proposal: 70 points):

1. Measurable impact to stakeholders
    a. Knowledge gained
    b. Documented pesticide reduction
    c. Increased stakeholder profitability/sustainability
2. Level of emphasis on IPM and sustainable agriculture outreach and education
    a. Quality and innovation of training methods
    b. Educational materials produced
    c. Presentations or Train-the-Trainer workshops

3. Collaborations and relevance to Utah's important agricultural and green industry commodities and situations
    a. Importance of crop/commodity/situation in Utah
    b. Potential for impact on important stakeholder group(s)
4. Feasibility of project
    a. Completion of objectives within stated time period
5. Appropriateness and expertise of project leader(s)
    a. Qualified project leaders, collaborators, and cooperators involved
6. Appropriateness of budget
    a. Adequate and reasonable request for stated work
7. Extent and magnitude of potential impacts in Utah
    a. Potential for use by other Utah counties and stakeholders
    b. Potential for large magnitude of impact (large number of acres, people, or other appropriate units)
8. Evaluation of project
    a. Complete discussion of how project's impacts (measurable changes in knowledge and skills of professionals and public) and educational programming changes will be accomplished

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Submit an **electronic copy (e-mail attachment) of the proposal by December 14, 2007** to:

Marion Murray, IPM Project Leader
marionm@ext.usu.edu
(435) 797-0776

FUNDING NOTIFICATION AND PROJECT TIMELINE

Notification of proposal awards will be made by February 1, and funding will be available immediately upon notification. All project expenditures must be completed by September 30, 2008.

REQUIRED REPORTING

A final report documenting the project's results, outcomes, and impacts will be due to Marion Murray by November 1, 2008. Please include any project outputs (publications, images, reports, etc.). All materials will be posted on the Utah IPM website:
http://utahpests.usu.edu/ipm/htm/programs/minigrant

In addition, an evaluation form is to be completed by all Agricultural Professionals associated with the project (agents, specialists, researchers and other professionals). This will be supplied by the Western SARE Professional Development Program.

Presentation of project results at professional meetings and other outreach training opportunities is strongly encouraged.

Projects funded in 2007

1. Biological Weed Control: Using Goats to Control Noxious Weeds – Sterling Banks ($2000)

2. Curly Top Resistant Tomato Varieties for Southern Utah, Second Year – Rick Heflebower and Chad Reid ($1000)

3. Examining Traditional Economic Thresholds for the Control of Alfalfa Weevil in Established Alfalfa Stands - Clark Israelsen Michael Pace, Mark Nelson, and Craig Poulson ($2500)

4. The Use of Oilseeds as Biofumigants to Control Alfalfa Stem Nematodes – Craig Poulson and David Drake ($2700)

5. Reducing Pesticide Use on Turf grasses through IPM Practices – Larry Sagers, JayDee Gunnell, Adrian Hinton, Linden Greenhalgh ($1200)

6. IPM Methods for Home Vegetable Gardens – Maggie Shao ($800)