

Utah Extension IPM and Sustainable Agriculture Mini-Grant Program CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 2009

What is IPM and Sustainable Agriculture?

Integrated pest management (IPM) and sustainable agriculture (SA) 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 Mini-Grant Program

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

Who can apply for funds?

Proposals are requested from Utah State University County Extension personnel for development of county, multi-county, and regional (within state) IPM and SA education, demonstration, and professional development projects to be conducted during 2009. 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.

Proposals may have only a single Principle Investigator (PI) with unlimited co-PIs, cooperators, and collaborators.

Definitions of Proposal Participants

1. *Principal Investigator*: the person who leads the project and coordinates expenditure of funds.
2. *Co-Principal Investigator*: person who works with PI in most aspects of the project.
3. *Cooperator*: person who provides advice, materials, or data to the project. Examples include Extension specialists, other faculty, growers, consultants.
4. *Collaborator* ("Partner"): person or organization that provides either services or other financial support for the project, and has a stake in the results. Examples include growers, non-profit organizations, public agencies, other universities, businesses.

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 (435-797-0776) and/or Robert Newhall (435-797-2183) if you need assistance with development of project ideas.

Funding Information

A total of \$5,000 is available (funding source for 2009 is 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. Awarded grants will receive 50% of funding immediately and the remaining 50% upon successful completion of final reports and submission of all receipts.

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
 - a. Methods that will be used to assure distribution of educational products and related project materials to other agricultural professionals and stakeholders in the state
 - b. The professional meeting(s) where your work will be presented
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 and County Extension Agents. Funding is awarded based on the following criteria (maximum score for each category: 5 points; maximum score for a proposal: 80 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. Professional presentations
 - d. 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
 - b. Track record of PIs for meeting mini grant program goals in previously funded projects (Note: first-time applications will receive 5 points for this criteria)
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 of the proposal by December 8, 2008** to:

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

Funding Notification and Project Timeline

Notification of proposal awards will be made by mid-January, and 50% of funds will be deposited into a county account upon notification. All project expenditures must be completed and submitted to Marion Murray before September 30, 2009, however, the remaining half of awarded funds will not be provided until final reports and evaluations are received.

Required Reporting

A final report documenting the project's results, outputs (products), and outcomes (impact) will be due to Marion Murray by November 1, 2009. Please include copies of project outputs (publications, images, reports, etc.). All materials will be posted on the Utah IPM website, where past projects can also be viewed:

<http://utahpests.usu.edu/ipm/htm/programs/minigrant>

In addition, an evaluation form (**Appendix A**) is to be completed by all mini-grant applicants, as well as participants of the project.

Appendix A

Evaluation Form: Sustainable Agriculture Projects

Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

WSARE Project Title:

Everyone

Please circle one

Improved my awareness of the topics covered	Yes	No
Provided new knowledge	Yes	No
Provided new skills	Yes	No
Modified my opinions and/or attitudes	Yes	No

How many people do you estimate you will share some aspect of this project within the next 12 months?

Producers – In the next year I am likely to use some aspect of this project to

Adopt one or more of the practices shown	Yes	No
Increase the operation's diversifications	Yes	No
Reduce my use of purchased off-farm inputs	Yes	No
Increase my networking with other producers	Yes	No
Incorporate value-added into some aspect of my operation	Yes	No

Professionals – In the next year I am likely to use some aspect of this project

In an education program that I plan or participate in	Yes	No
As a resource I will make available to producers	Yes	No
As a professional development tool for my peers	Yes	No
To improve advice/council I give to producers	Yes	No

Professionals – Please describe how you are likely to use some aspect of this project for an educational purpose?