

TALKING POINTS ABOUT 406 IPM PROGRAMS

All 406 IPM Programs:

Protect food supplies and communities. Section 406 IPM programs are the source of most of the USDA's support for research and educational programs to improve pest management so that risk is better managed, profitability is protected, environmental stewardship is enhanced, and human health is improved.

Regional IPM Centers: Small Investment, Big Impacts

<http://www.ipmcenters.org>

o **Involve stakeholders and find productive common ground:** Regional IPM Centers actively involve the people who will be affected by public decisions in a way that no central federal program ever could. They bring together people from different perspectives—for instance, agribusiness and environmentalists—to find common ground and solve problems.

o **Assist regulatory agencies to make practical decisions:** EPA and state regulatory agencies depend on IPM Centers to develop and manage information about the impact of pesticide regulations (existing, new, and proposed), helping ensure those regulations are practical for use in the field.

o **Respond quickly to critical issues:** Efficient staff and small but flexible pools of funding provide a stable infrastructure that scientists, farmers, and others use to respond quickly to important issues as they arise. This function provides a key complement to large, annual-cycle competitions managed by USDA.

o **Make the most of public resources:** IPM Centers help organizations to build on each other's successes. The Western IPM Center, for instance, has documented a 2 for 1 gain in leveraged resources. In 2006, an independent review found that IPM Centers show an *impressive use of limited resources to maximize output* of projects, and advised USDA to use IPM Centers as a model for future programs.

Crops at Risk (CAR)

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/cropsatrisk.cfm>

o **Purpose:** The Crops at Risk (CAR) program was developed to support IPM research and implementation programs for crops that were dependent upon certain pesticides scheduled for phase-out as a result of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA). The focus of the CAR Program is on integrated activities for individual crops and was designed to support multidisciplinary research and extension efforts within a single crop.

o **Example impact:** One project doubled the number of pest management tools available to cherry growers for plum curculio control. Instead of relying solely on organophosphate insecticides, cherry growers can now confidently integrate reduced-risk pesticides and insect growth regulators into their IPM programs, saving up to 2-3 cover sprays per season. The post-harvest research results

have also created grower-level interest for developing a commercial automatic sorting technology for the purpose of eliminating pests and/or insect-infested products from the intact products.

Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program (RAMP)

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/riskavoidancemitigationicgp.cfm>

o **Purpose:** RAMP was designed to support integrated research and implementation activities for multiple crop systems within a region. The focus is on cropping systems with elevated pest risk resulting from FQPA regulatory activities. Emphasis is on multi-pest, multi-crop, and multi-state programs.

o **Example impact:** A fruit IPM project in Pennsylvania identified replacement chemicals for those lost to registration and pest resistance. Scientists implemented mating disruption, resulting in decreased fruit damage and use of broad-spectrum pesticides. By using beneficial mite predators, each year participating growers reduced miticide active ingredients by one ton and avoided 45,000 gallons of insecticidal oil, saving \$700,000 and lowering the Environmental Impact Quotient 10- to 15-fold.