



*Advocating for progressive integrated pest management to improve environmental, social and economic conditions through the application of scientific principles.*

## **IPM Addresses Food Safety Concerns**

**Pesticide Risks to Children.** In 1993, the National Academy of Sciences' *Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children* documented that children are uniquely susceptible to pesticides. This report, in part, led to the Food Quality protection Act (FQPA) in 1996, passed unanimously by Congress.

**FQPA Directed Use of IPM.** FQPA directs that IPM be a central strategy to help farmers' end use of high-risk pesticides. **The IPM budget has been cut drastically (35%) on the mistaken assumption that FQPA work is done.** Growers need IPM more than ever to adapt to new reduced-risk pesticides.

**Pennsylvania Success.** Pennsylvania used USDA's Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program (RAMP) program to completely revamp pesticide use in apples and peaches, which are disproportionately consumed by infants and children. **The four-year PA RAMP research program demonstrated an average pesticide reduction in the use of organophosphates (OPs) in peaches and 82% in apples. The RAMP program is no longer funded.**

**Continued Support for Growers to Adopt IPM is Essential.** Reduced-risk methods which include more targeted but safer pesticides, biological control and other tactics are more difficult to use and require a higher level of management on the part of growers.

**New IPM Strategies Essential.** New varieties are introduced, new pests invade (e.g., Brown Marmorated Stink Bug devastated mid-Atlantic tree fruit crops in 2010), old pests develop resistance to pesticides, new pesticides are introduced, regulations change, etc. New threats are always developing and new IPM strategies are always needed. IPM is helping to control Roundup-resistant weeds.

### **Farmers Need IPM to Address Customer Food Safety Concerns**

The world's largest food distributor, Sysco, requires IPM of all of its processed fruit and vegetable suppliers. McDonald's requires all of its potato suppliers to report practices they use to reduce pesticide risks. Campbell Soup, Del Monte, Gerber's, General Mills and hundreds of other food product buyers require IPM. IPM is a key component of ensuring food product has a minimum of pesticide residue, and that pests are adequately managed to prevent pest contamination of food product.

### **IPM Protects Kids in Schools**

The Centers for Disease Control, the American Public Health Association, the Schools Nurse and PTA Associations recommend the use of IPM in schools. Some school districts have used IPM to reduce both pesticide applications and pest problems by 90%. The Cooperative Education Services Agency in Wisconsin recently received an EPA grant to implement an IPM in Schools program. A national working group is coordinating efforts to implement advanced IPM in all 14,000 public schools by 2015 if funding is available.

### **IPM Works for Farmers!**

Wisconsin potato growers earned the USDA Secretary's Honor Award for Maintaining and Enhancing the Nation's Natural Resources and Environment, and the International IPM Award of Achievement. They

achieved this, USDA's highest honor, by implementing an IPM program that reduce the use of the eleven most toxic pesticides used in potato production from 33% of industry use to less than 3% in less than three years.

There are IPM systems for all crops that need support o remain current and effective. The leading California farm organization has stated that farmers have used IPM to reduce older higher risk pesticides. The California Almond industry has been honored twice for its IPM initiatives by US EPA for its reduction in the use of pesticides and more emphasis on IPM practices.

*This information was collected from state IPM and national IPM sources by IPM Voice. [www.ipmvoice.org](http://www.ipmvoice.org). For more information, contact Jim Cubie [jimcubie@gmail.com](mailto:jimcubie@gmail.com) 843-928-3702.*