

Section 2: Implementation

BENEFITS OF AN INTEGRATED FRUIT PRODUCTION (IFP) PROGRAM AND WAYS TO EVALUATE THEM

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One can apply several perspectives to the evaluation of IFP when comparing it to the conventional pear production system. Of primary interest to the grower is the economic perspective. The traditional economic evaluation looks primarily at costs, yield, quality and price. Grower acceptance of IFP will depend foremost on whether the bottom line of IFP compares favorably to the conventional production system. However, in addition to the short-term economic perspective, one also needs to examine the long-term costs and benefits of the two production systems. What is their environmental impact, particularly in regard to agricultural chemical use? Or in a more narrow sense, how do the two production systems compare in terms of impact on beneficial arthropods (biological control agents), effects on other non-targets, resistance risk, water quality, and other criteria? Several evaluation methods will be presented. Examples of this analysis using data from IFP demonstration sites collected over a three-year period will be presented.