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EIP Stakeholder Priorities Survey Summary 2017

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During the period of 2015-2017, the UMass Integrated Pest Management (IPM) team met annually with a specialty crop advisory group made up of 10-20 fruits and vegetables farmers and 10-20 agricultural service providers to evaluate and prioritize work supported by a USDA-NIFA Extension Implementation Program (EIP) grant. At each meeting, attendees shared their needs within certain topics. Topics composed of advisee needs were recorded on large posters, which were then placed around the meeting space. Each attendee was given a set of sticker ‘dots’ per topic and asked to ‘vote’ on the needs most important to them. Attendees could put all of their votes on one need or spread them amongst various needs.

The lists below are the summaries of three years’ of voting. Topic areas were: Information Delivery, In-field Training and Education, Whole-Farm Approaches, Research and Demonstration Projects, and Professional Development for Agricultural Service Providers. Needs in each topic are listed in descending order by number of votes received over the 3-year period.

Topic	No. votes	Years out of 3 listed
Information delivery to growers		
On-line instructional videos	30	2
Apps for IPM/Diagnostics	22	2
Weed specialist (fruit and veg)	16	1
Newsletters	15	1
Videos of on-farm meetings	12	1
Vegetable entomologist	8	1
Soil lab director	8	1
Consumer education	7	1
In-field Training and Educational Programs		
Weed management	30	2
Nutrient management compliance	23	2
Field walks/scouting training	21	1
Training compliance (WPS, GAP)	20	2
Sprayer calibration	18	3
Pollinator issues	17	3
Record keeping	15	2
Vegetable Winter School	14	1

Twilight meetings	12	1
Soil health	12	1
Food safety	12	2
Pest identification and management	12	2
Resistance management	11	2
Organic pesticides	10	1
Wildlife management	8	1
Irrigation	7	1
Composting	5	1
GMOs	5	1
Forecasting models/monitoring	5	1
Invasive species	4	1

Whole Farm Approaches for Diversified Farms

Scouts, Diagnostics (Extension support)	32	1
Plant health/productivity (non-pest related)	27	3
Language barriers	17	1
Setting IPM goals, strategies, and evaluation	16	2
Digital (IT) recordkeeping	11	1
Funding sources (leverage EIP)	10	1
Unmanned aerial systems (drones)	6	1
Food safety, water testing	3	1

Professional Development for Ag Service Providers

Farm business management	27	3
Mobile apps	23	1
Weed management/specialist	20	1
Video making	18	1
International tours	17	1
Insect ID	13	1
On-farm experience/shadowing	12	1
Statistics	12	1
Food safety	11	1
Project management skills	6	1
Web-based learning	5	1
Weather stations	5	1
Beginning farmer training	3	1

Research Trials/Demonstrations	No. votes	Years out of 3 listed
Late blight options (esp. organic)	29	3
Basil downy mildew	25	3
Cabbage aphids	25	3
Sweet corn bird damage	19	3
SWD management	19	3
Strawberry Botrytis issues	15	3
Bacterial disease management	13	1
Efficacy trials (nematodes, others)	12	1
Apple fire blight	11	2
Steam sterilizing in field	11	2
Soil fertility	10	1
Strawberry, cranberry white grub	10	2
Organic weed control	9	1
Apple caterpillars	9	1
Irrigation water quality	8	2
Spinach varieties, disease BMPS	8	2
Cucurbits, organic management	7	1
Apple Sooty blotch/fly speck	7	2
Cucurbit downy mildew	7	1
Spinach leafminer	7	1
Strawberry herbicides	6	1
Promote beneficials	6	1
High tunnels	6	1
Apple scale	6	1
Cover crops	5	1
Organic nematode control	5	1
Flea beetle cultural practices	4	1
Sweet corn pests	4	1
Pepper phytophthora	3	1
Mating disruption	3	1
Strawberry viruses	3	1
Soil testing, P and high tunnels	3	1
Sweet potato pests	3	1
Biofumigants	2	1
Celery anthracnose	2	1
Cabbage root maggots	2	1
Cucumber beetle pheromone	2	1
Tomato aphids	2	1
currently (2016) working on		

UMass Extension IPM Team

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