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USDA NIFA awards grant to the Network for Environment and Weather Applications for innovative online delivery of IPM crop risk tools

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Geneva, NY, October 15, 2018: The Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA) (newa.cornell.edu), created by the New York State IPM Program (NYS IPM) at Cornell University in 1996, provides insect and plant disease forecasts for fruit and vegetable production. The website will soon undergo a significant upgrade funded by a USDA Agricultural Research and Development Program grant awarded to NYS IPM, which is part of Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) at Cornell University. This $198K grant provides important resources to deploy a device-responsive web design, improve user experience, and integrate back-end data quality controls for the NEWA online decision aid system.

What makes NEWA unique? Growers and producers who use the system. A network of more than 650 grower-owned and public weather stations provides real-time weather data to the NEWA platform throughout the Northeast, Midwest, and Mid-Atlantic, from which more than 40 models and tools generate farm-based crop risk assessments and management recommendations are provided. Users value NEWA as an important tool in the IPM toolbox for fruit and vegetable production.

This project closely aligns with regional priorities identified by North Central, Northeastern, and Southern IPM Center stakeholders. These include (1) advancement of web-based IPM and weather information delivery methods, (2) development of new pest threshold and prediction tools, and (3) promotion of new technology that supports IPM efforts.

The upcoming web redesign will integrate capability to provide regional attribution for NEWA partners and weather station owners. It will link growers to respective partner resources throughout the network for improved IPM decision support. Automated data quality control of variables such as precipitation, temperature, relative humidity, and solar radiation, coupled with improved communication methods with weather station owners will be built to further improve the reliability of NEWA.

NEWA users in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin will soon have a website experience that provides a new level of continued accuracy and reliability for research-based IPM risk assessments and recommendations.

United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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