

Banking on Beetles in Oregon Wins Grant Award-April 2006

The Farmscaping for Beneficials Project (FSB) at IPPC received its first grant award for creating and enhancing habitats for predacious ground beetles on four Oregon organic vegetable farms this summer. The project is called, *Banking on Beetles in Oregon*. Project coordinator, Gwendolyn Ellen, has been working part-time on FSB, a participatory, conservation biological control project, with local organic vegetable farmers for the past two years. In August, 2005 her position became full-time enabling her to not only coordinate the project but spend more time fund-raising as well.

The two year grant award of \$19,068 was from USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. It enables farmers to explore establishment methods for beetle banks as well as providing IPPC staff the opportunity to begin researching predacious ground beetle populations on farms. Participating farms include Persephone Farm in Lebanon, Gathering Together Farm in Philomath, The 47th Ave Farm in Portland, and Whistling Duck Farm in Grants Pass.