

Interactive Farm Planning for Conservation Biological Control

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Background

• OSU, the Xerces Society and Oregon Tilth have initiated a partnership to develop a grower-based program in conservation biological control (CBC) and pollinator conservation

• This partnership is based upon the FAO-developed principles of Community IPM. Community IPM incorporates IPM in a strategy for local, sustainable agricultural development where farmers:

- act on their own initiative and analysis;
- identify and resolve relevant problems;
- conduct their own local IPM programs that include research and educational activities;
- elicit support from local institutions;
- establish or adapt local organizations that include farmers as decision makers;
- employ problem-solving and decision-making processes that are open and egalitarian;
- create opportunities for all farmers in their communities to participate and benefit from the IPM activity;
- promote a locally sustainable agricultural system.

• The program consists of:

- Farmer-to-farmer information exchanges
- Farm walks and demonstrations of techniques
- On-farm research and development
- Emphasis on farm planning as well as the techniques themselves

Implementing on-farm conservation practices

The emphasis of the program in 2006/7 is on development of grower clubs that will develop and implement their own CBC and pollinator conservation programs.



Farm Walks



Farm walks have exposed more than 70 growers to diverse farming types and to a variety of CBC and pollinator conservation techniques that are practiced by the farm owners, managers and interns. The emphasis of the program is on farm-based, locally-specific practices and upon grower-led evaluation of techniques that increase resources for beneficial invertebrates.

The images above show a farm walk, insectary plantings and a beetle bank at Persphone Farm, Lebanon, Oregon

* Nick Andrews is now a small farm program agent at Oregon State University

The images above show growers collaborating to plant and mulch a beetle bank with native grasses at Whistling Duck Farm, Central Point, Oregon

The Bug-Scaping Game



The game develops a farm-management plan for a real, or hypothetical farm, examining all the opportunities and constraints that exist for beneficial insect conservation practices, based on the experience of growers. It can take place on farm walks, or at *Farmscaping for beneficials* events known as Bugscaping Faires.

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