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Idaho OnePlan Integrate Pest Management Matrix

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Abstract Text:

Concerned about the role of agricultural operations as a source of non-point pollution, federal and state government agencies in the West are offering financial incentives to producers to put in place more sustainable agricultural practices. Traditional methods of informing and educating producers on Integrated Pest management (IPM) practices have typically only reached a small percentage. To further reduce agricultural impacts to natural resources, and to reach more farmers with IPM options and education, we developed the Integrated Pest Management Matrix. The IPM Matrix is the newest planning component of the Idaho OnePlan website. The Idaho OnePlan is a comprehensive website that contains information, guidelines, and regulations, as well as downloadable software for preparation of nutrient management and conservation plans.

By using the IPM Matrix, a grower can see side-by-side comparisons of available pest management strategies. The IPM Matrix will enable producers to create pest management plans utilizing available IPM practices, to evaluate the environmental risk of pest management options and to keep records both for decision making and regulatory requirements. The IPM Matrix is currently a decision-making tool for potato, dry bulb onion, and sugarbeet crops that will assist producers with IPM decisions throughout the growing season. The Win-PST software is utilized as the chemical risk assessment tool. Use of reduced risk pest management options are encouraged to promote IPM practices, reduce risk to pollinators and other beneficial organisms, and reduce risk to soil and water while maintaining profitability and sustainability to the producer. Also, Natural Resource Conservation Service field staff and farmers can use the IPM Matrix to prepare the IPM component of conservation plans.

Impact Statement:

The project has helped producers utilize EQIP funds for field scouting and planting of green manure crops. In some areas of intense potato production green manures have been planted for nematode management, replacing soil fumigant applications. The fields in these areas have high sand, and pesticide leaching potential is extreme.