IPM Tag Teams
Why Did I start an IPM Tag Team?
It was something to Do outside of hunting season!!

All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names.
Started doing Tag teams as a new agent in 1990

- got me out of the office and into crop fields to see what was going on in the area
- put me in contact w local growers
- discussions with farmers kept me abreast of other important issues
- the field is the best place to teach about field crop pests
Why do IPM Tag?

- information gained in a few growers fields can be a great first alert for other growers in your county, email lists or web pages, newsletters or special alert mailings… armyworm
- sharing results of scouting efforts: may be great for cementing good relationships with agribusinesses that sell crop inputs
What were the Issues?

Most of the field producers I worked with were dairy farmers with predominantly corn and alfalfa.

The most typical pests of alfalfa were Potato leaf hopper (PLH) and alfalfa weevil (AW) and verticillium wilt resistant varieties like Oneida VR were just being introduced.

There was a variety of pests on corn including seed corn maggot, wireworm, cutworm, potato stem borer, European corn borer but this was the time when we just started to see western corn rootworm in our area.

Growers didn’t know much about the pests or IPM.
How did we get growers involved in IPM Tag?

We tried having a party at Turning Stone Casino
How did we get growers involved in IPM Tag?

We tried
The
Sledge
Hammer
How did we get growers involved in IPM tag?

• We approached the “early adopters” within a location
• We asked them which of their neighbors would be interested
• We contacted individual growers by phone
• We talked to them about the benefits including earning 10 NYSDEC credits
• We promised to be flexible with the timing of meetings
How did we get growers involved in IPM Tag?

- We have also asked growers individually at winter meetings if they were interested in Tag.
- On farm visits, after identifying a pest problem, during that “teachable moment”.
- Newsletter announcements of IPM Tag program in winter newsletters (not successful).
- Summertime announcements in newsletters of IPM meetings.
How did IPM Tag evolve over time?
Evolution of IPM Tag programs

- We started with local dairy farmers since there were 350 at the time and covered IPM in corn + alfalfa in neighborhood groups. 4-5 yrs, 1-3 grps per year. 2 counties.
- Ran out of early adopters.
- Preseason set up host farms, put announcements in newsletters and covered cropping topics for whomever attended.
Evolution of IPM Tag Programs

• Had a program for the large farmers, spread out over the county
• With help from Keith Waldron added livestock IPM programs
• With Ken Wises’ help started an IPM Tag for local wheat growers
• With Ken Wise and Julie Dennis started an IPM Tag for soybean growers
Evolution of IPM Tag

- We have applied for grants to support a scout as part of an IPM Tag program through IPM, NE IPM, FLLOWPA
- Ken and Julie both have been successful at writing grants to IPM, NE IPM and soybean board to help fund scouts as part of IPM Tag programs
Evolution of IPM

• Moved from IPM to ICM and integrated segments on harvest management, TLC, mixing times and particle size distribution in the TMR, wide swathing
Evolution of IPM Tag

- AlfalfaHarvest timing first based on Gary Ficks model now based on work done by Jerry Cherney
Evolution of IPM Tag

- Nutrient management planning, manure management, fertilizer selection, calibration of manure spreaders and corn planters
Evolution of IPM Tag

Information gleaned in IPM Tag group only being shared within the Tag group(s)

Information passed on in newsletters (if timely)

Information passed on by email immediately to a block of growers and agribusinesses

Information passed on by all of these other means and also posted to our website on a weekly basis

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County
What impacts has IPM Tag had on my Extension Programming?
Some impacts of IPM Tag

- Provides an opportunity to work with a small group of growers on a more intensive level and help them to have a positive impact on their farms

- 5-21-03 At a Tag mtg w/ 5 area farmers I went over the research by Bill Cox on yield response to populations. More than half of the farmers were planting at 30,000 seed/ac. The research illustrated economic yield benefits from increasing to 37,500 seed drop. After the meeting Peter Green incr his pop from 30,000 to 35,000 and Jacob Stolzfus incr his population from 28,000 to 30,000. B cox documented 2 ton yield increases from increases in corn plant pops from 26,000pl/ac to 30,000pl/ac.
Impacts of IPM Tag

- 5-21-03 At a IPM Tag mtg we discussed manure qualities as a fertilizer source. I asked Pete Green the host not to spread his load of manure that morning so I could demonstrate how to weigh a spreader to determine the rate of application. I asked the group to guess how many tons were in the spreader. Peter guessed 2 tons, Ron 3 tons, Stolzfuses, Jacob, Nathan and ? guessed 4 tons. The spreader weighed 3.9 tons and at the current settings and speed of application Pete was applying at 31t/ac (9’x 600+’). I gave the info on spreader wt to Mike L. at SWCD because I knew he was writing the CAFO plan for Pete. After giving him that info. He called back and said that Robin Manginin was asking for some training on weighing spreaders so they could begin to do that for the CAFO plans.
IPM Tag impacts

• Sharing scouting results from Tag meetings with other growers can have a big impact

• HI Jeff,
  I found the crop information and updates very useful in dealing with adverse weather conditions this year. Your report and updates on the armyworn devestation were very useful as I did go and scout most fields to search for damage. Thank god that's over!

• Sincerely Floyd Fisher

• Dariy Replacement Herd

Jamesville, NY 13078
IPM Tag impact

- Sharing results of scouting on IPM Tag farms with local agribusiness can be invaluable.
- When I first started with CCE, we had more of an adversarial relationship with Agway. We invited them and many other fertilizer ag chem. sales people to join Tag teams over the years and share all scouted information with them. Today we were invited to many of their meetings to talk about any subjects.
Other suggestions

• have an organizational meeting in the winter, ask them what they want? Do what they want. If DEC credits are involved make out applications in the winter and submit with potential dates and locations and make chgs in dates and times in season or use pre.... Approved credits applied for by Keith Waldron & co.
Other suggestions

- Give them some form of crop record and ask them to at least keep track of this one crop
Suggestions

• Consider semi scheduled meetings. Someone volunteers to host the mtg on a specific week, phone call that Mon am set date based on forecast picking the least favorable field day for the mtg, make phone calls to other participants

• ask them to bring something with them, insects weeds, tag off the bag of seed, anything else pertinent to the meeting
Suggestions

• If you have a handbook on the crops find a way to get it in their hands and have them bring it to each mtg. Use it as a reference during the meeting

• If a handbook isn’t available develop a handout with info and support info for what will be discussed

• If you meet at the farm move to the field quickly….. what you learn from the slide on the wall in the winter may be forgotten easily what you learn in the field you retain.
Vegetable Growers Meeting