

New York Apple Producers Learn to Mitigate Risk of Codling Moth Damage

About four years ago, Kevin McKeon, an apple producer in Williamson, New York, knew that he had a problem. Codling moths had become a nuisance to many farmers in the area, ripping through crops and turning good fruit into bad. McKeon personally was forced to downgrade 8 truckloads of rich, delicious premium Idared Apples to non-premium, and in some cases, forced to simply turn it into juice. But knowing about a problem and knowing how to fix it are two completely different things.

Luckily for McKeon and other farmers in the area, Deborah Breth, a Cooperative Extension educator with Cornell University, had received three consecutive one-year grants from the Northeast Center for Risk Management Education. The focus of her project was to reduce the economic and environmental risk of Codling moth damage in apples through the use of new pheromone technology.

A team of growers, processors and crop advisors worked together to implement new mating disruption pheromone technologies, new insecticides, and application timing based on trap activity and degree-day models. Collaborators arranged for nine farm demonstrations using mating disruption, and several educational events including 3 winter schools and 1 summer tour.

With the help of a technician, a fieldman, and a project leader, McKeon used this new pheromone technology and said that he is more than pleased with the results. Four years ago, before he started using the technology implemented by the cooperative-extension agents, he had 8 truckloads of Idared apples ruined. This year, he had none.

“The ball park number for how much we saved is \$11,000,” McKeon said. And that is just on his own 40-acre fruit farm.

Throughout the region, through newsletters, faxes, e-mails, and meetings, 300 growers learned about the options to reduce the economic risk associated with this pest. All told, the project helped prevent approximately \$100 thousand of crop damage for NY apple producers.

Asked if he would recommend the program to other farmers, McKeon emphatically said, “Absolutely I’d recommend it. I explained to the other farmers that it’s like an insurance policy. The bigger farmers used the program as well, and all their numbers increased. Everybody’s pleased with the results.”

“THE BIGGER FARMERS USED THE PROGRAM AS WELL, AND ALL THEIR NUMBERS INCREASED. EVERYBODY’S PLEASSED WITH THE RESULTS.”



EXTENSION RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

“Helping America’s farmers and ranchers manage risk.”

The Extension Risk Management Education program provides training to help producers learn new strategies to manage complex and growing agricultural risks. Extension Risk Management Education accomplishes this by encouraging and funding innovative programs across the country, and helping programs focus on accomplishing tangible results.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Commitment to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration allow you to view the accomplishments of all funded projects online at: www.ExtensionRME.org

Section 524(a)(3) of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 authorized the Partnerships for Risk Management Education and provided \$5 million dollars annually to be administered by USDA-NIFA. Extension Risk Management Education is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Extension Risk Management Education Regional Centers

Southern Center

University of Arkansas
(501) 671-2165

Northeast Center

University of Delaware
(302) 831-6540

Western Center

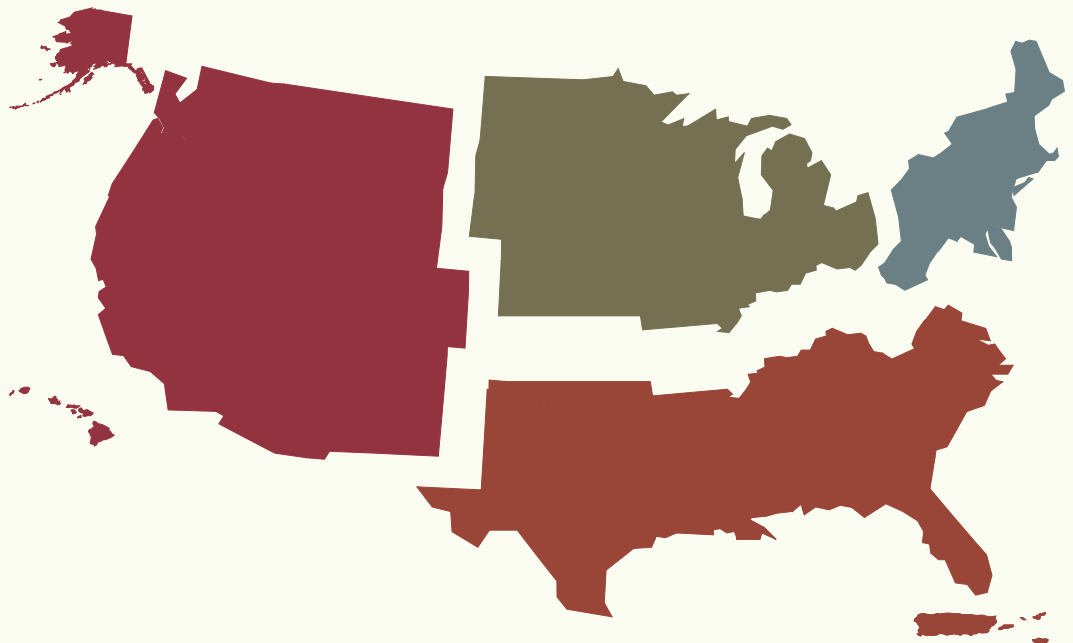
Washington State University
(509) 477-2176

North Central Center

University of Nebraska
(800) 535-3456

Digital Center

University of Minnesota
(612) 625-1964



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

www.ExtensionRME.org



Find us on:
facebook®