

**Texas Water Resources Institute
Integrated Farm Management
Strategic Ag Initiative Program
EPA Cooperative Agreement No. X8-96668501-0**

Quarter no. 10 From 12/01/10 Through 2/28/11

I. Abstract

Work this quarter by TWRI was partially focused on moving toward completion of the soybean fact sheet as well as producing an Integrated Pest Management newsletter and partially focused on completing the final report. Texas AgriLife Extension continued to deliver education programs. All project participants have been participating in telephone conversations to ensure that all project deliverables are being met and are on time as the project nears completion. The continuing education courses and field days have been very successful with various methods of production and insect control being presented.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

Task 1. Project Coordination:

Subtask 1.1: Project Oversight – TWRI will provide technical and fiscal oversight to ensure Tasks and Deliverables are acceptable and completed as scheduled and within budget.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has provided fiscal and technical oversight by ensuring that project tasks and deliverables are acceptable and timely.

99% Complete

Subtask 1.2: Fiscal/invoicing – The Texas AgriLife Extension Service will submit reimbursement forms per the schedule established/requested.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. An invoice (R019014) for the amount of \$3,230.95 and time period of 9/1/10 thru 12/31/10 was submitted to EPA leaving a balance of \$512.60 or 1% of the budget to be spent.

99% Complete

Subtask 1.3: Regular Meetings - To facilitate good communication between project participants, a quarterly meeting or teleconference will be scheduled and hosted by TWRI.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI and County Extension Agents visited regularly via telephone regarding project activities to ensure deliverables have been met as the project comes closer to an end.

99% Complete

Subtask 1.4: Quarterly progress reports - TWRI, with the assistance of the project personnel, will submit progress reports to EPA Region 6 quarterly. The Reports will include the status of deliverables for each Objective and Task and a narrative description of activities for each task outlined in this Scope of Work in Progress Report format

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI will submit year 3, quarter 2 report on March 15, 2011.
- b. Project is scheduled to end on March 31, 2011

99% Complete

Subtask 1.5: Final Report – TWRI, with assistance of project personnel, will provide EPA Region 6 with a comprehensive report on the activities during the course of this project.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The final report has been drafted and has been sent to the ACWC for review.
- b. A final report template is currently being filled out by TWRI for EPA to utilize

75% Complete

Task 2. Conducting Integrated Farm Management System Education Programs:

Subtask 2.1: A joint county Pesticide Applicator Safety Training and Continuing Education Program will be held on a quarterly basis for growers in Cameron, Willacy and Hidalgo County to educate individuals on the following topics:

- *principles of integrated pest management*
- *non-chemical alternatives and pest features*
- *ground and surface water protection*
- *laws and regulations and record keeping*
- *cost benefit of IPM*
- *pesticide labels*
- *endangered species protection*
- *Worker Protection Standards and personal protection*
- *maintenance and calibration of application equipment*
- *pesticide application safety training*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

Date	Event	County	Description	Attendance
2/2/11	Pesticide Safety Training	CH	Topics included: the principles of integrated pest management, non-chemical alternatives, pest features, ground and surface water protection, laws and regulations, pesticide labels, endangered species protection, Worker Protection Standards, record keeping, personal protection, application equipment, calibration and continuing education units.	6

99% Complete

Subtask 2.2: Educational meetings will be held to educate producers on crop production, proper nutrient and irrigation management, soil testing, and integrated pest management practices including the economic benefits of an integrated management approach. Each of the following meetings will be held on an annual basis.

- *1 cotton production meetings*
- *1 sorghum production meeting*
- *1 sugar cane production meeting*
- *1 citrus production meeting*
- *1 vegetable production meeting*
- *A soil testing campaign to promote proper use of fertilizers and nutrient management*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

Date	Event	County	Description	Attendance
1/19/11	Cotton PrePlant Conference	CHW	Cotton varieties, weevil eradication program update, Weevil eradication in Mexico, water management plans & cost share programs, cotton IPM topics, sorghum checkoff, market update, cotton fertility management, soil testing program, biofuels potential in the Valley, new developments from industry	130
2/15/11	Sunflower demonstration	H	sunflower variety result demonstration established	3

2/24/11	CEU Workshop	CHW	citrus weeds, citrus insects, aerial drift management, aerial personal safety factors, laws and regulations	63
2/25/11	Grain sorghum result demonstration	C	Grain sorghum variety result demonstration established	4
2/28/11	Grain Sorghum Demonstration	W	Grain sorghum result demonstration established	4

99% Complete

Subtask 2.3: *Texas AgriLife Extension Service will hold joint county training events (at least 2 per year) to advertise and educate individuals on related programs addressing water quality.*

- *Promote cost-share programs (319(h), EQIP, etc.)*
- *Educate producers or assist local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (as possible) in development of water quality management plans*
- *Educate producers on involvement and implementation of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan and the potential effects*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has developed various one pagers that contain general knowledge about the BMPs and contact information regarding cost-share.

99% Complete

Subtask 2.4: *Expand the outreach program to include a fact sheet and IPM newsletter (distributed annually and more frequently if needed) addressing the adoption of an integrated farm management system including implementation of IPM practices, production and best management practices to protect water quality, nutrient and irrigation management practices and participation in cost-share programs.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- b. A Soybean Fact sheet is near completion and will be completed and printed before the end of the project. Also, TWRI has worked with the IPM program and an IPM newsletter will be coming out in mid to late March..

97% Complete

III. Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments

- Nothing to report

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

- Education activities will continue.
- A fact sheet that will inform soybean producers on proper growing techniques is still in progress and will be completed and printed before March 31.
- An IPM will be released next mid to late march.