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October 10, 2013

To: Board Members
From: Gary Fish, Manager of Pesticide Programs
Subject: Planning Session Topic: On-line Credit Options

As more growers and applicators become accustomed to on-line training and “webinars”, the demand for on-line options to complete their recertification credit requirement continues to grow.

I have approved all of the following sources of on-line training programs:

- University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- PMP Distance Learning Center at Cornell University
- Principles of Turfgrass Management, University of Georgia
- CTN Educational Services
- Continuing Education University
- All Star Training, Inc. On-Line Courses
- Pestweb.com On-Line Courses
- Pestnetwork.com On-Line Courses
- Penton Online Continuing Education Portal
- InterNACHI Wood-Destroying Organism Inspection Course

These providers offer courses in everything from potato late blight disease management to bed bugs. Of course there are Maine specific topics that are not covered by the courses, especially some specialty crops like lowbush blueberries or balsam fir Christmas trees.

At the planning session we heard suggestions for outreach to crop specialists to see if they might offer some courses like those offered by Steve Johnson at the Cooperative Extension Potato Program in Presque Isle. Steve provides courses in potato plant pathology, potato seed treatment, potato late blight and potato white mold as well as three general courses: groundwater protection; sprayer calibration; and reading labels & choosing PPE. Should the Board suggest that other crop specialists work with Steve to offer courses specific to their specialty, such as Dave Yarborough and blueberries? What about other crops?

There was also the suggestion to record some of the live trainings that are done across the state and turn those videos into on-line recertification courses.

Currently, we do not have the equipment or the software to develop these courses. If this is an avenue the Board would like to pursue, we will need to pull together the local crop specialists and the University Visual Media department to help us produce quality videos.

Is this an area you see as a high priority?