



## **Integrated Crop and Pest Management (IPCM) Advisory Group**

The Wisconsin NPM, IPM, and PAT<sup>1</sup> programs created a joint, consolidated advisory body called the Integrated Crop and Pest Management (IPCM) Advisory Group in 1999. The Advisory Group consults with the programs on issues of agriculture and the environment. The Advisory Group fosters cooperative efforts by its members and these outreach programs to address critical issues regarding pest management, pesticide use, and nutrient management by Wisconsin farmers and landowners.

The function of the Advisory Group is to assess the present situation and identify problems, to assist in formulating solutions, and to find resources to carry them out. The Advisory Group members work as a sounding board as well as providing the program Directors and staff with creative solutions and insights. The members provide additional expertise and information in areas needed by the outreach programs.

The members share common interests in the issues but have different perspectives. The members link the programs to CALS Departments and research, to related state and federal programs and to state agricultural organizations. In addition, the Associate Dean for Agriculture and Natural Resources serves as an administrative liaison. In spring 2001, the Advisory Group requested that additional farmers and an environmental representative be added. The expanded committee is listed on the accompanying page.

The IPCM Advisory Group meets twice a year (early fall and spring). Before each meeting, the members are contacted for agenda items. Following the meeting, a written synopsis is sent to members within three weeks.

This joint advisory body is one way for the University to accomplish more coordinated and rapid response to emerging issues and challenges as well as build on existing strengths of the allied programs. Presently NPM, IPM, and PAT program goals include:

- Expand IPM use in Wisconsin crops — reduce use of chemical pesticides, increase use of cultural and biological pest control tactics, improve production efficiency, and maintain the competitiveness of Wisconsin growers by producing crops with the lowest pesticide inputs necessary.
- Increase adoption of nutrient management and soil conservation practices that protect water quality and farm profitability.
- Educate pesticide users on the basic practical knowledge of handling and applying pesticides properly to protect oneself, others, property, and the environment.

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<sup>1</sup> Nutrient and Pest Management (NPM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT).