New Entry and Beginning Farmers

I recently came across a documentary entitled with the title of a magazine called New Farmer. The cover photo showed a busy farmer standing in front of a busy apple orchard with solar panels on the roof. The headline announced an article that discussed the role of public and private entities in supporting beginning farmers. Unfortu-
nately, this discussion has been very rare in under-
standing and connection with the Northeastern IPM Center. We believe those who take the informative and practical issues of IPM initiatives will expand their understanding.

New Entry and Beginning Farmers

In October 2016, the Northeastern IPM Center in Delaware and Pennsylvania released a new issue in their monthly newsletter, titled "New Entry and Beginning Farmers," which focuses on supporting and providing education and training for beginning farmers. The newsletter includes articles and stories about the challenges and opportunities faced by beginning farmers, as well as tips and strategies for success. It aims to promote sustainable agriculture and encourage more people to pursue a career in farming.
The University of Maryland offers an entire guidebook and website for beginners, available on the web. The Cornell Small Farms Program maintains a list of tutorials and worksheets to guide new farmers writing a business plan. There are a number of organizations that provide assistance to beginning farmers to manage risk by planting extra seeds to provide a “buffer,” to avoid overwatering through the use of drip irrigation and water conservation techniques; and a map pointing to various farm service providers. The beginning farmer can find much good information that is freely available on the web. The most familiar source is the Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. There is a list of links to about 200 programs, their life cycles, and the many control options available to diversified vegetable producers. At the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (www.nesfp.org) and the University of the District of Columbia’s Urban Food Producer training program (www.udcfirebirdresearch.org), extension agents provide classes and on-farm workshops to help farmers learn sustainable practices. The latter program is sponsored by Northeastern IPM Center through a grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Extension agents train farmers on balancing nutrients in the soil, using mulches—black plastic, straw, and compost—to tend the season and confer better pest management compared to field crops. Extension agents train farmers in the use of horticultural (flour, sugar, and oil). The new farmer must be able to implement sustainable food production practices. New farmers must be able to implement sustainable food production practices. The major intent is to promote sustainable food production practices. The new farmer must be able to implement sustainable food production practices. The major intent is to promote sustainable food production practices.
It’s the Small Things that Add Up

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to the 18th century, failure to drain and build levees, to build dams to control water flow, to spread fertilizers and lime, to control weeds, to select seed varieties and manage pests, and to choose livestock—all of these things contributed to an improvement in productivity that was the foundation of the modern agricultural economy. Today, the small things that add up is just as applicable. It’s the small things that are added to our farms that result in the big differences in productivity from one farm to another. All of these “small things” contribute to the bottom line of farmers. If these things are overlooked or neglected, they can add up to a big problem.

The University of Maryland offers an entire guidebook and website for beginning farmers (http://nesfp.org), we introduce new and beginning farmers to the basic concepts of conservation agriculture, sustainability and the importance of pest management. If producers start with a solid foundation of good soil management, crop nutrition, weed management, and pest management, they will produce better crops and save money on inputs.
It’s the Small Things That Add Up

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e didn’t farm such a small thing could do so much damage!” This is a common phrase heard from farmers working with new and beginning farmers who realize the importance of implementing best management practices to ensure their operations are sustainable. Farmers know that overwatering can lead to disease issues, and that avoiding overwatering through the use of drip irrigation and water management practices is very important. Farmers grow a variety of crops, each with their own specific management needs, and are always on the lookout for pests that may affect their crops. We need to provide farmers with information about issues related to pests and the importance of IPM, and what IPM means. IPM is a holistic approach that relies on a combination of cultural, biological, and chemical tactics to control pests, and is based on principles of ecology and the balance of nature. IPM is not about spraying pesticides, but about using the right tool for the right job, and using the least amount of pesticides possible. This is why IPM is so important for beginning farmers who are looking for ways to reduce their pesticide use and increase the sustainability of their operations.

Aagnificant number of beginning farmers embark on the adventure of food production, and they face many challenges including pest management issues. Because of their limited resources, many beginning farmers are forced to rely on chemical solutions for pest control. However, many of these chemical solutions can be harmful to the environment and can harm beneficial insects such as bees and ladybugs. Therefore, we provide technical assistance to help new farmers understand the best practices to manage their pest populations. This is accomplished through outreach programs such as the Northeast IPM Center, which provides technical guidance to producers on implementing and monitoring cultural practices, using non-chemical pest control methods, and emphasizing the role of good garden/farm sanitation (keeping the farm clean). Additionally, we provide technical assistance to farmers who want to avoid the use of chemical pesticides, and help them develop and implement alternative pest management strategies.

Beginning Farmers

Beginning Farmers

The beginning farmer can reach such good information that is freely available online in a world that is not always looking for new and beginning farmers. The beginning farmer can access a wide variety of publications from around the world, including those from the University of Maryland and the USDA. The University of Maryland offers an entire guidebook and website on beginning farming. The guidebook contains various publications on the topics of sustainable agriculture, soil health, and pest management. The website also includes an online discussion forum where beginning farmers can ask questions and get advice from experienced farmers.

We also promote heavy use of other types of cultural practices like crop rotation, row covers, and the use of natural predators to control pests. We also encourage farmers to use biological control agents, such as nematodes and bacteria, to control pests naturally. We also encourage farmers to use sustainable practices such as IPM, which starts with the soil. We train farmers on balancing nutrients in the soil, using compost and cover crops, and maintaining soil health. We also promote the use of soil health practices such as no-till and minimal tillage, and the use of cover crops to improve soil health. We also provide technical assistance to farmers who want to avoid the use of chemical pesticides, and help them develop and implement alternative pest management strategies.

Pest Management in Alternative Crops: A New Learning Experience

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e must be able to implement sustainable food production methods in small farms, and we need to be able to provide technical assistance to farmers who want to avoid the use of chemical pesticides, and help them develop and implement alternative pest management strategies.

New Entry farms are critical to the success of the high tunnel program. Our program’s success is dependent on the participation of new and beginning farmers. We provide technical guidance to growers and help them implement sustainable food production methods in their high tunnels. We also help them avoid the use of chemical pesticides, and help them develop and implement alternative pest management strategies.

Aspergillus niger is a common fungal pest that can affect various crops, including tomatoes and potatoes. This pest can cause significant yield losses, and can be challenging to manage. We provide technical assistance to growers who want to avoid the use of chemical pesticides, and help them develop and implement alternative pest management strategies.

What is the Best Management Practice for High Tunnel Growers?

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All About Pests in High Tunnels for the Beginning Farmer

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any growers in Delaware who use high tunnels are concerned about pests. We provide technical assistance to growers who want to avoid the use of chemical pesticides, and help them develop and implement alternative pest management strategies.

As the high tunnel program expands, we are seeing an increase in the number of pests that are becoming more resistant to chemical pesticides. We provide technical assistance to growers who want to avoid the use of chemical pesticides, and help them develop and implement alternative pest management strategies.

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I recently came across a degree-worshipping article with a picture of a magazine called New Farmer. The cover photograph showed a hearty standing in front of a fully laden table with solar panels on the roof. The husband, wife, and children were surrounded by chickens, and nearly was a young child. The headlines promised stories such as "Raising pigs for profit," "Mini-farming," and "Hanging tomatoes." Only this time, not a single one of us would ever put the finger on the board to keep the garden in motion, not be impressed by today's taxation savvy, environmentally conscious, new and beginning farmers.

The U.S. defines beginning farmers as those who have specialized in farming for less than five years. Unfortunately, this definition doesn’t take us very far in understanding what it means to the millions of people who are growing popular high tunnel vegetables, too. Indeed, people who feel the allure and desire to begin farming are the backbone of every education and income level. The basic fact is that farming has deep roots, and peasants today. Of course, beginning farmers nowadays not only need to know information about weather and weather conditions, but to create their own profitable business strategies. A healthy farmer's market is the future city. A place of farmers is being shown growing vegetables in a greenhouse, every second of today.

For the first time, participating students held real or aquatic experience. The program emphasized training in biology, veterinary medicine, entomology, soil management, and IPM tactics. The program was provided in a bilingual format with classes taught in Spanish but also in English to accommodate the diverse student population. By applying knowledge of integrated pest management processes and by using environmentally friendly tactics, students learned to cultivate sustainable urban agriculture. Thus, with funding from a Northeastern IPM Center Fellowship Grant, urban agriculture and high tunnel farming was developed in Boston MA urban and suburban settings. The objectives of the program were to provide the useful skills to lower risk, to increase food production and food security, and to attract urban living in urban areas in agriculture opportunities.

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High Tunnels
Continued from Page 4

Mechanical/Physical Manage and control pests under high tunnels. Yellow sticky traps can be strapped to the frame. Most of the plants and spaces to create an environment unfavorable to disease development through ventilation to control the temperature and humidity regulation. Overcrowding with too many plants and growing materials and screen doors at the end of the season. Expecting the high tunnels for the very low temperatures is the winter helps slow down plant growth. It will improve the beginning of the planting season.

Biological: The use of beneficial insects in high tunnels helps manage pests. The environment in the high tunnel should support the presence of these insects. Each cover cropPlay, compost, and mulch, reduce soil borne pests. Cover crops encourage the presence of beneficial predatory insects.

Chemical: In most cases, growers may use chemicals recommended for the greenhouse, as high tunnels are also enclosed. Always read the label and follow instructions. Treatment of localized pest outbreaks help avoid unnecessary use of chemicals remaining in the high tunnel. Keep spray nozzles to help gauge effectiveness.

High tunnels create an environment that is hybrid between the field, environmentally controlled and a functional greenhouse (controlled environments). These research in biological and chemical pest control is needed. Reliable IPM regimes need to be developed for beginning and established farmers who are growing pepper plants in high tunnels.

Credits
The Northeast IPM Center—Victor R. Caetano, Chris Donnelly, Director—Steve Young, Staff—Art Collins, Nancy Exmann, Jennifer Hashley, James Harkness, Elizabeth Lai, Morris Shurtleff, Executive Director.

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Blue plastic used (Photo provided by Irene Young)