



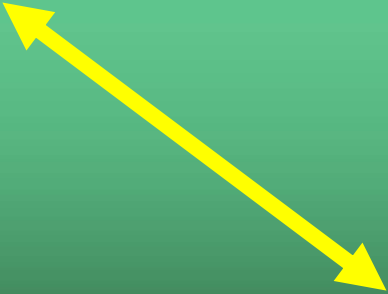
# **Pennsylvania USDA – NRCS Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program and Fruit IPM**

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# US Department of Agriculture



# Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Help people conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources and the environment.
- Environmental engineers that evaluate risks to soil, water, plants, air, animals, and humans.
- Not driven by efficacy & economics to produce a crop

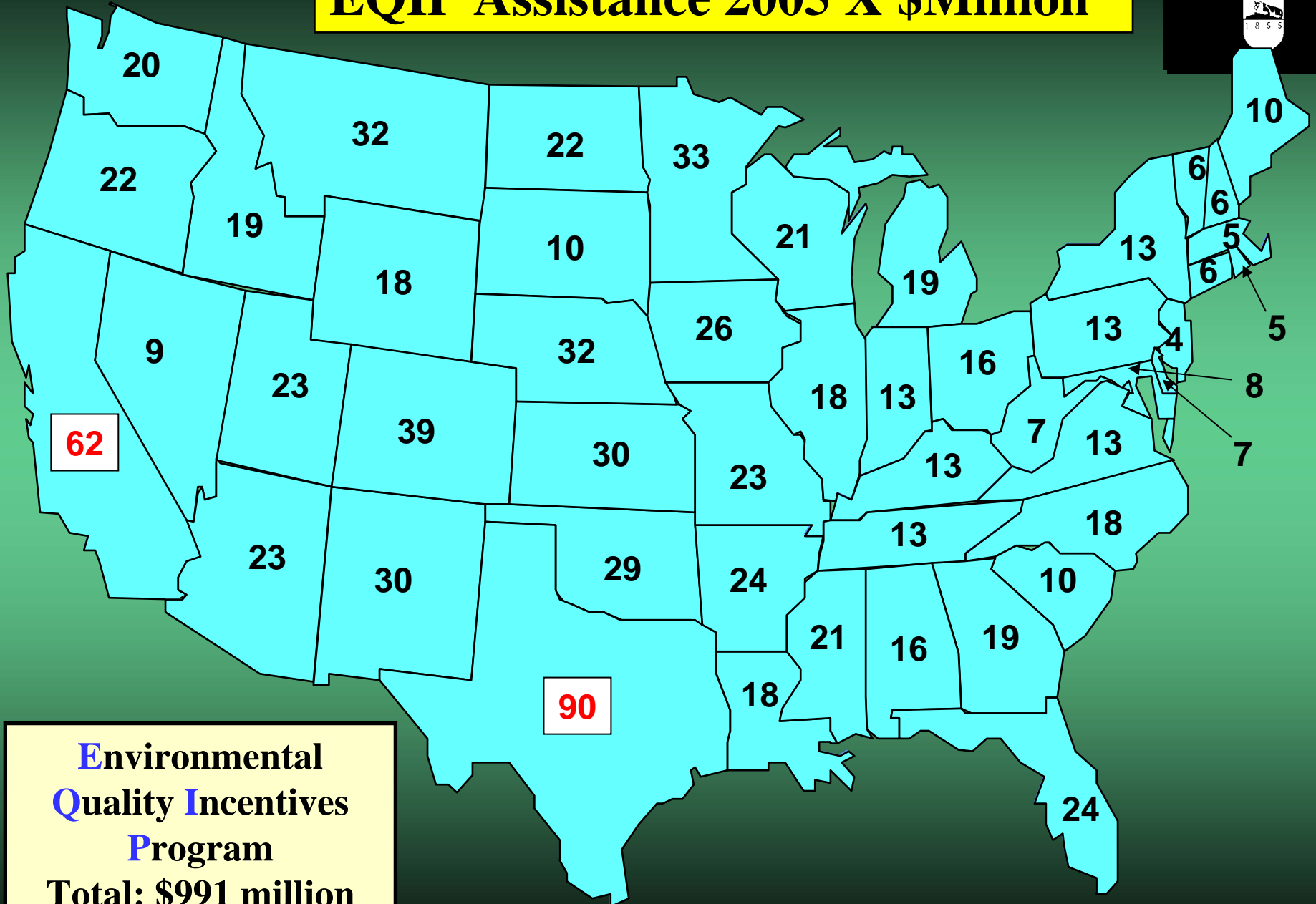


# “New” NRCS IPM Role

- emphasizes the importance of reducing environmental risks from pest management decisions in agriculture and supports the adoption of IPM through the NRCS Pest Management Standard (595).
- This standard helps producers:
  - **Get credit for their mitigation practices & justify USDA “Green” program payments**
    - **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**
    - **Conservation Security Program**
    - **Agricultural Management Assistance**



# EQIP Assistance 2005 X \$Million



**Environmental  
Quality Incentives  
Program**  
Total: \$991 million

# Environmental Quality Incentive Program

- PA targets livestock, grazing, cropland erosion, no-till, air quality, wildlife habitat, and nutrient management.
- **50-75% cost share, limit \$250,000/yr/grower.**
- **Generally not many \$ for IPM.**
  - **MI, NY, (WV) – “IPM Elements”**
    - general IPM program w/ many tactics to choose from which can be tailored for each grower for a fixed cost/A.
    - NC – support the cost of IPM scouts in tree fruit.
  - **Tree Fruit; then vegetables, ornamentals, small fruit.**

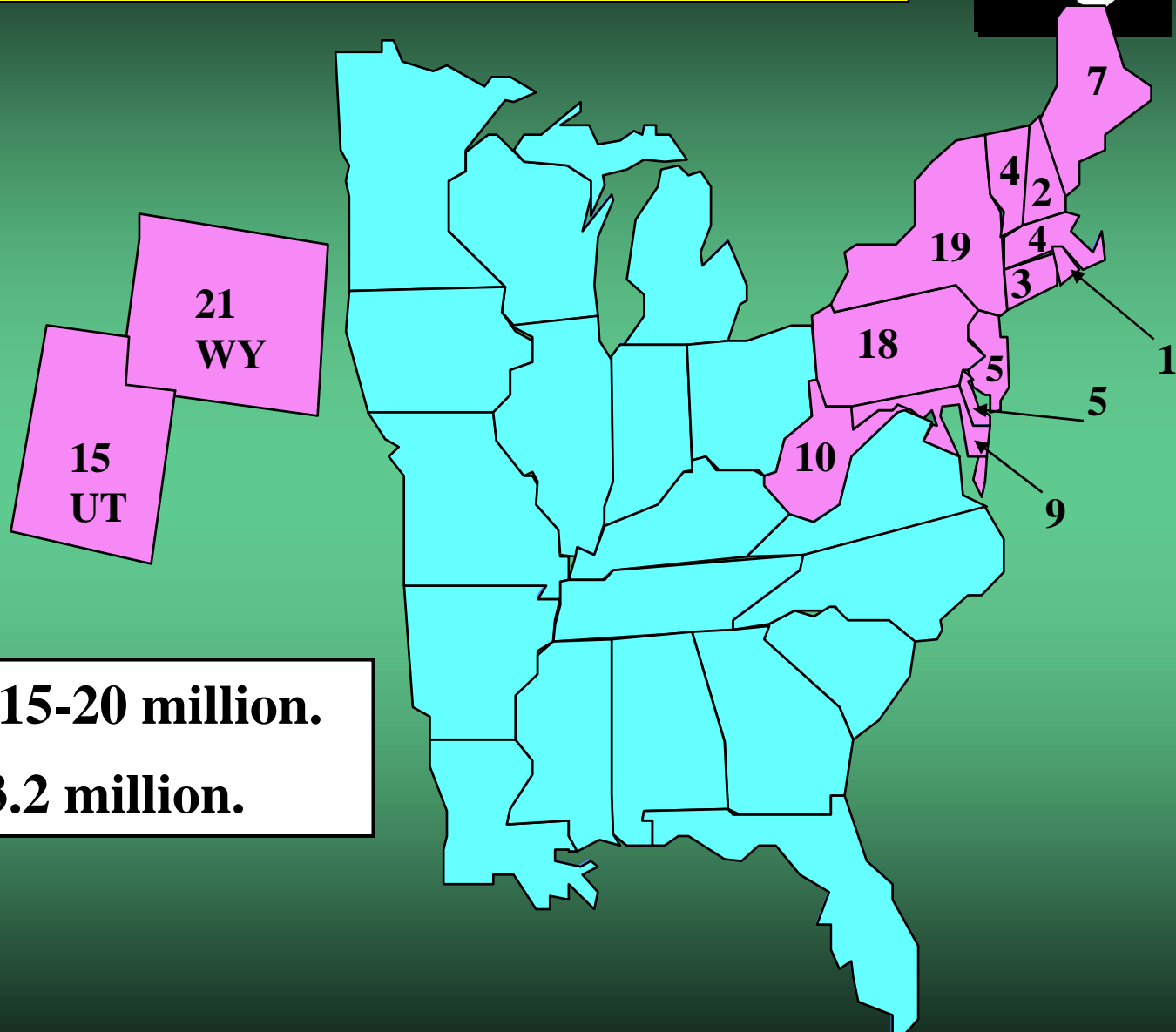
# Agricultural Assistance Management (AMA)

- AMA is available in 15 states, where participation in the Federal Crop Insurance Program is historically low.
- Much more flexible than EQIP program, higher cost share, \$50,000 per grower/year limit.
- Shorter 3 year contracts



# 2005 AMA Assistance X \$100,000

PENNSTATE



- Yearly budget \$15-20 million.
- 2005 total of \$13.2 million.

# Agricultural Assistance Management (AMA)

- Provides financial & technical assistance to reduce financial risks to growers willing to try environmentally friendly production practices:
  - implementing/improving water & irrigation management for perennial crops
  - resource conservation practices: including soil erosion control, IPM, windbreaks, fencing, cover crops etc.
  - transition to safer pesticides through organic farming, reduced risk IPM, improved pesticide storage facilities

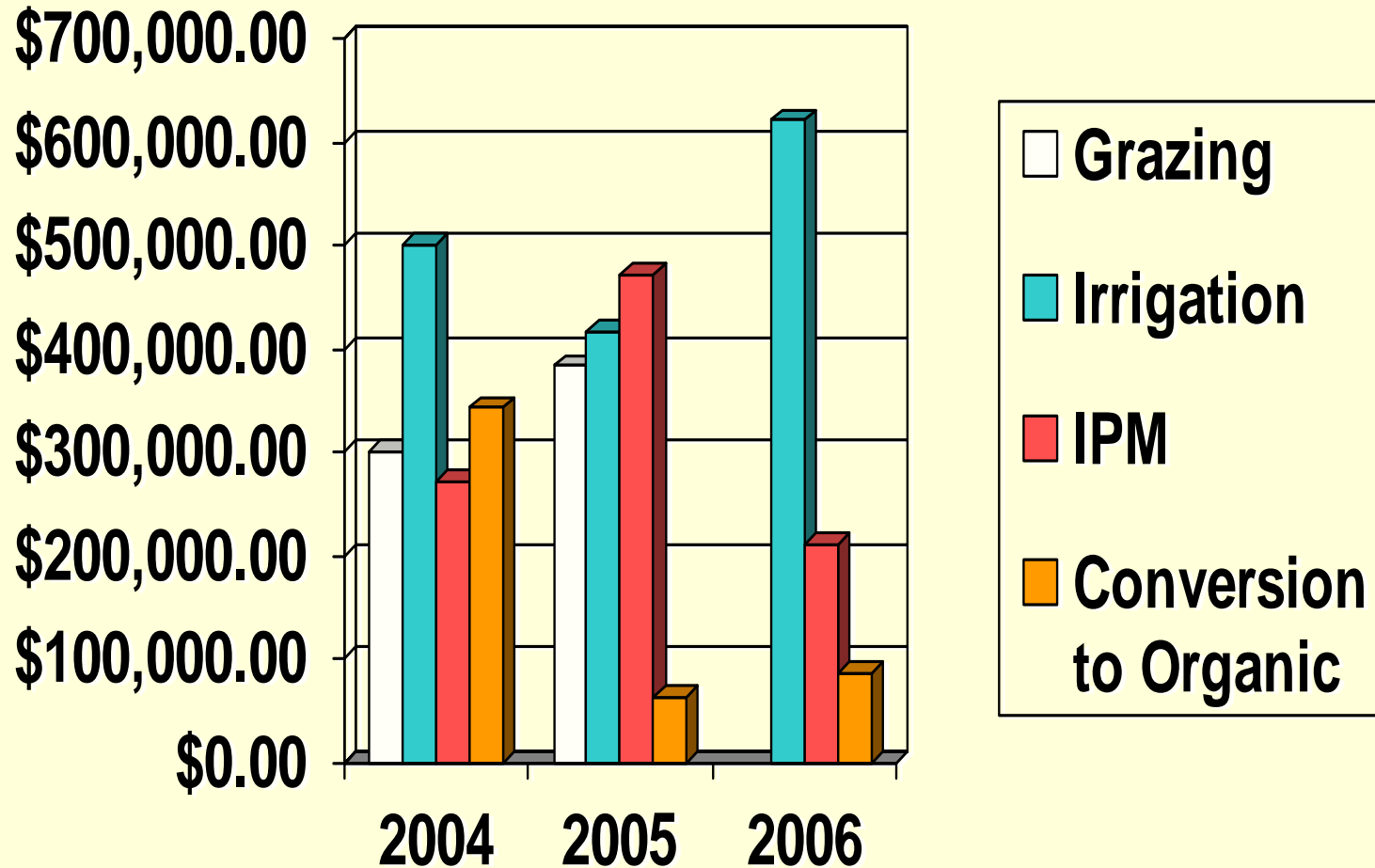


# PA AMA – IPM Program

- Pennsylvania NRCS added AMA-IPM practices in 2004, and it has been initially oriented towards the Fruit Industry.
- With the technical assistance of the Penn State University Fruit Research Center, this IPM program addresses some environmental concerns/risks related to pest management.
  - FQPA loss of OP & carbamate insecticides
  - Grower transition to more expensive RR IPM & organic fruit production.
  - Cover the initial costs for IPM scouts and consultants.
- Since then over \$1 million has been paid to growers for IPM practices.



# PA NRCS – AMA Financial Assistance



# Financial Assistance for IPM practices

## PA NRCS AMA Program 2006



- Basic Pest Management for Tree Fruit (\$35/A)
- Biological Control – *T. pyri* (\$6/A)
- Mating Disruption for 1 species (\$38/A)
- Mating Disruption for 2 species (\$76/A)
- Intensive Disease & Insect Monitoring & Trapping (\$45/A)
- Reduced Risk IPM (\$50/A)
- Use of Precision Application Technology (\$15/A)
- Weather and Growing Degree Day Monitoring (\$375/yr)
- Field Crops (\$8/A)
- Ag-Chemical Handling Facility (up to 75% c.s.)

# **NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants 2006**

## **National Competition**

- **Natural Resource Concerns component--Up to \$10 million available for proposals addressing one or more of the CIG natural resource concerns.**
- **Chesapeake Bay Watershed component--Up to \$5 million available for proposals addressing one or more of the CIG natural resource concerns in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.**
- **Technology component--Up to \$5 million available for proposals addressing one or more of the CIG technology or approach categories.**

***Total: \$20 million awarded in 2006***

# NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants 2006

## National Competition

- Implementation grants, not research grants. Must show reduction in environmental risk through implementation.
- **50% cost share from non-federal money.**
  - State & local grants count as matching.
  - Value of participating grower orchards, facilities etc.
- 22 page rfp, 12 page proposal - no feedback.
- Letter from State Conservationist that proposal is consistent w/ EQIP goals.
- New to the idea of IPM grants, March deadline.

**70 grants in 2006 w/ largest at \$750,000!!**

# NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants 2006

## State Competition – (PA, NJ, OH, NH, ME)

- Implementation grants, not research grants. Must show reduction in environmental risk through implementation.
- **50% cost share from non-federal money.**
  - State & local grants count as matching.
  - Value of participating grower orchards, facilities etc.
- 22 page rfp, 12 page proposal - no feedback.
- No letter from State Conservationist.
- New to the idea of IPM grants, April deadline.

**\$75,000 max, \$250,000 available for PA 2006**

# For more Information:



- PA IPM and NRCS  
<http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/nrcs.html>
- PA USDA-NRCS Programs  
<http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>  
– Agricultural Assistance Management
- NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/>
- Pennsylvania State University, Fruit  
Research & Extension Center  
<http://frec.cas.psu.edu/>

