

FNE 04-530

November 13, 2004

Dale I. M. Riggs
SARE Northeast Farmer Grant Specialist
Stonewall Hill Farm, LLC
15370 NY22
Stephentown, NY 12168

To: Dale

Re: M. Riggs Farmer Grants Specialist Northeast SARE

1. Use of a polypropylene fabric cover as a barrier for the egg laying depositing of the cranberry fruit worm.
2. The goal was to reduce the damage caused by cranberry fruit worm moths by using a polypropylene row cover as a physical barrier to egg laying cycle. This should increase the yield and the cranberry income per acre.
3. Updated farm information since the grant – None.
4. Cooperator and their roles.
Charles Armstrong, cranberry professional entomologist for the State of Maine.
5722 Deering Hall, Room 410
Orono, Maine 05722
5. We covered .8 of an acre of a cranberry bog with polypropylene fabric row cover to physically prevent cranberry fruit worm moths to get to the cranberries during the egg laying period. The fabric was applied on July 23, 2004 at 56% bloom and removed on August 19 a period of 27 days. The project had no changes from the original grant specifications.
6. The results were very good in our samples. Fruit worm damage was significantly reduced. The cost effectiveness was a loss in the year 2004 for only the cranberry crop. If we look at the total use on this farm, in order to break even on the cost, the additional use of the covering on cucumbers, squash and pumpkins make the covering a break even cost for one years use.

The use of the row cover on the cranberries, that was previously used on the squash, melons and pumpkins and then moved to the cranberries after flowers appeared in the other crops, was cost effective.

7. The cranberry fruit worm had a low population in the year 2004. (Extreme cold weather?)

8. The economic results are attached and didn't prove out for the year 2004, but would have been economical for 2002 and 2003. Since we use the same row cover for other crops, it would appear to be a break even for the years crops (2002 – 2003) It would appear to be a break even for the year 2004 as well.
9. We plan to use this practice on all our cranberry beds in 2005 because of the positive results from this project in 2004.
10. Out reach – the results were sent to all Maine cranberry growers and an article was printed in the Cranberry Magazine (copy enclosed.) Results were also talked about at the Summer Maine cranberry association meeting and the MOFGA Farmer to Farmer Conference in November of 2004.

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