

To Brew or not to Brew?

— by IR-4 Western Region Director, Marion Miller and IR-4 Western Region Laboratory Coordinator, Matt Hengel

That is the question... And unless you are planning to make barley wine, you'll want to be adding some hops to that sweet wort to impart bitterness, flavor and aroma. In order for US hop growers to produce an abundant, high quality crop, pesticides are required to control several pests, pathogens and weeds. As a result, residues of these crop protectants are occasionally found on hops.

Although previously published work on pesticide fate in the beer brewing process shows that little or no residues transfer from the hops into the final product (Hengel, 2002), pressure from various hop customers has led to the need for a residue testing program. Many of these customers include domestic and international brewers (Germany, Japan and Canada). In particular, Germany has had a random screening program in place for several years. Because of customer pressures and existing testing programs in other countries, the US hop producers had asked the Washington Hop Commission

and US Hop Industry Plant Protection Committee to initiate a pilot project to develop a screening method which can be used to analyze randomly selected commercial hop samples.

IR-4's own queen of hops, Ann George, approached Matt Hengel from the Western Region Laboratory with a challenge to create a multi-residue method on hops to help meet the needs of US hop growers.

The initial goal was to develop a method for 11 compounds (abamectin, bifenthrin, bifentazate, carfentrazone-ethyl, cymoxanil, hexythiazox, imidacloprid, mefenoxam, pymetrozine, quinoxifen and trifloxystrobin) near or below existing US tolerances. Several methods currently exist for the screening of several hundred compounds in fruits and vegetables and most notably is the "QuEChERS" (Quick, Easy, Cheap, Effective, Rugged and Safe) method developed by Anastassiades and Lehotay (2003). This method served as

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Doug Buhler, IR-4 North Central Region Administrative Advisor, and amateur beer brewer, samples the aroma of Oregon hops.



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IR-4 Executive Director Finishes Another Race

When most people turn fifty, they might celebrate by having a party, going on a cruise or taking up a new hobby. When IR-4's Executive Director, Jerry Baron turned fifty late last year, he rededicated himself to an old hobby, running. To celebrate this milestone, Jerry ran the Outer Banks (NC) Marathon on November 9, 2008. Jerry began running in 1983 under the encouragement of his NC State University cohort, and current IR-4 Ohio State Liaison, Doug Doohan. Bitten by the marathon bug, Jerry has made it his goal to run a marathon in every state in the US. He seems well on his way, having run 24 marathons in 16 states.



Also running in the race was Les Glasgow from Syngenta.

IR-4 Executive Director, Jerry Baron, running mile 20 of his 24th marathon in Outer Banks, NC.

National Education Conference Agenda at a Glance

Mon. Feb 23, 2009

5:00-6:00

Registration

Tues, Feb 24, 2009

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Registration

8:00-8:10 AM

Introductions, Groundrules

8:10 – 10:50 AM

- IR-4 overview
- What's Up at IR-4
 - > Crop Group Program
 - > Ornamentals
 - > Biopesticides and Global Protocol
 - > Globalization efforts/Canada, Australia and Global Minor Use Summit,
 - > Changes to 30 month timeline

11:10-11:55

- Lab Meet and Greet,
- Web page available for instruction

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Tuesday PM Field Session

- Participation in Canadian Field Trials
- Optional Topics
- 860 Guidelines (field and protocol development)

1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Tuesday PM Lab Session

- New ASR/DER format (SD, QA)
- Lab Guidance Document
- 860 Guidelines applied to lab/86-5/equipment logs for lab

5:30 – 7:00

Reception

Wed, Feb 25, 2009

8:00 – 9:00 AM

- Petitions – Parts of Admin volume, relationships with EPA,

PRIA, Joint NAFTA review

9:00-10:25

- Lab/Field Interface issues

10:45 – 12:00

- Optional Topics

1:15 PM – 1:40 PM

- PMC Awards

- Intro to the afternoon session.

1:45 – 3:00

Question and Answer Session

3:15 – 5:00

Closing Session/Summary Comments

BRAVO! - New Opportunities for an Old Favorite

— by IR-4 Plant Pathology Program Manager, Dave Thompson

Chlorothalonil was recently granted a new risk cup that is much bigger than the old one. How did that happen? Syngenta submitted arguments to EPA to change some endpoint values, and that, along with a large IR-4 submission (in Oct of 2007), gave EPA a PRIA date by which an argument decision had to be made. The IR-4 submission helped drive forward EPA's review of the arguments for change in toxicological endpoints. The result of this review is that the risk cup has increased significantly. This increase in the risk cup was necessary to accommodate the large number of crops in the 2007 submission.

The risk-cup increase has allowed IR-4 to take on a citrus project for 2009 that will allow California citrus growers to continue to ship to South Korea. South Korea requires a certain number of copper applications for Septoria spot control. The California citrus growers were using five applications of copper and excess copper was beginning to show up in water samples. California was threatening to reduce the number of copper applications. Chlorothalonil has good activity on Septoria spot and was identified as a potential candidate to be used

in rotation with the necessary number of copper applications. This is one example of how the increased room in the risk cup is helping growers. IR-4 also decided to initiate residue studies in 2009 with chlorothalonil on the tropical fruits guava and lychee. Papaya, mango and passion fruit are already labeled but lychee, guava, and sugar apple were not. Sugar apple may be next.

The 2007 IR-4 petition will soon result in the following additions to the product label: peppers and other members of the fruiting vegetables (tomatoes are already labeled), okra, the entire Cucurbit crop group, persimmon, rhubarb, horseradish, ginseng, yam, lentil, and the Brassica head and stem subgroup.

Are there other uses of chlorothalonil? One has been mentioned; the shortening of a PHI for almonds. The present PHI is 150 days and additional applications would be useful in managing Alternaria and resistance of Alternaria to other fungicides. Chlorothalonil makes a great tool in most crops due to the multi-site activity on pathogens and no record of resistance. This is only one example of collaborative efforts to help growers provide sustainable agriculture. ▲

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Hops Test

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a starting point for the proposed hop method.

The QuEChERS method, while effective and rugged on most crops, was quickly overwhelmed by the high percentage of waxes, oils and resins contained in the hops. Therefore, more robust steps were developed to cleanup the hop sample for analysis by liquid chromatography coupled to a tandem mass spectrometer (LC/MS/MS). The method has now been used successfully for three years and been well accepted. Currently, Ann George has obtained a grant to provide funding for the expansion of the existing method to cover more than 23 compounds. The new method will include all commonly used hop pesticides, many of which have been registered as a result of IR-4's efforts during the past 3 years. Additional compounds that are on track to be registered for use on hops in 2009-10 will also be included in the enhanced method.

Annual testing program results are available to those who sell the crop, and are used in responding to customer requests regarding US pesticide regulatory requirements and compliance. Results from the past three years have demonstrated that pesticide residues in the commercial hop crop are often non-detectable at a limit of detection of 0.1 ppm, or exist at levels well below the federal tolerances established by EPA. ▲

An Orphan No More

— by IR-4 Bill Barney

Crop grouping is a well accepted and cost effective approach that facilitates the efficient establishment of tolerances for both major and minor crops. The crop grouping regulations (40 CFR § 180.41) allow for the establishment of tolerances for a group or subgroup of crops based on residue data for representative crops of the group or subgroup. IR-4 with input from the International Crop Grouping Consulting Committee submitted a crop grouping petition for Fruiting Vegetables (except Cucurbits) in December, 2005. After further research and analysis by EPA HED Scientist, Bernard Schneider and submission to ChemSAC, the revised crop group was approved by US EPA ChemSAC. The Fruiting Vegetable (except Cucurbits) crop group previously consisted of 6 crops: Eggplant, Groundcherry, Pepino, Pepper (bell and non bell), Tomatillo and Tomato. The revision of this crop group will now include 21 crops including: African eggplant, Bush tomato, Cocona, Currant Tomato, Eggplant, Garden huckleberry, Goji berry, Groundcherry, Martynia, Naranjilla, Okra, Pea eggplant, Pepino, Pepper, bell, Pepper, non bell, Roselle, Scarlet eggplant, Sunberry, Tomatillo, Tomato and Tree tomato. The revised crop group will also include 3



subgroups and representative commodities as follows: Tomato Subgroup 8A (tomato), Pepper Subgroup 8B (Bell pepper and one cultivar of non bell pepper) and Eggplant subgroup 8C (one cultivar of non bell pepper or one cultivar

of small variety eggplant). Until the Federal Register Notice is issued, commodities approved for the crop group and subgroups will have to be listed as separate commodities at the same tolerance level.

The successful completion of this crop group will add not only okra to the group but also 14 other “orphan” crops that had not previously been included in any crop group. Previously a tolerance for okra was based on a tolerance for Fruiting Vegetables, but had to be proposed separately. ▲

Diseases of okra

- Alternaria (leaf spot)
- Ascochyta (leaf spot)
- Cercospora (leaf spot)
- Choanephora cucurbitarum (blossom & fruit blight)
- Fusarium wilt
- Macrophomina leaf spot (charcoal rot)
- Phyllosticta (leaf spot)
- Powdery mildew
- Rhizoctonia (seedling blight)
- Sclerotium rolfsii (southern blight)
- Virus (as yet undetermined)

Insects affecting okra

- aphid
- beet armyworm
- corn earworm
- lygus & stinkbug
- whitefly (silverleaf)

Nematode

- Meloidogyne spp. (Rootknot nematode)

Everything You Wanted to Know About Okra, But Were Afraid to Ask...

The following is reprinted with permission from Ravi Kochhar's website at the University of Wisconsin neurophys.wisc.edu/ravi/okra/.

Names for Okra

Its scientific name is "Abelmoschus esculentus" and also "Hibiscus esculentus". In various parts of the world, it is known as Okra, Ochro, Okoro, Quimgombo, Quingumbo, Ladies Fingers, Gombo, Kopi Arab, Kacang Bendi, Bhindi (S. Asia), Bendi (Malaysia), Bamia, Banya or Bamieh (middle east) or Gumbo (Southern USA). Apparently Gumbo is Swahili for okra. In Portugal and Angola, okra is known as Quiabo (plural: Quiabos), and in Cuba, as "quimbombo". In Japan it is known as okura. Patrick Taylor adds: "Okra has found its way to Taiwan, where it's called "qiu kui" (pronounced cheehow kway). That's the Mandarin Chinese word for it in Taiwan - which might be the same in the PRC, or might not."

Most (or at least very many) plants have several scientific names (not only two, but three, four and even more), because different scientists have named the plants based on their own ideas of the family relations of the plants. The first part of the Latin name (always capitalized) is the family name, and the second part (always in lower case) is the species name - in this case "esculentus", meaning 'edible' in Latin. Abelmoschus is derived from the Arabic "abu-l-mosk" (meaning 'father of musk'), referring to the musk-scented seeds. Hibiscus again is the Greek name for mallow.

In this case, someone thought that okra belongs to the Hibiscus family (mallow plants), and named it accordingly. Later, some other scientist

found so many differences from the Hibiscus, that he thought that the plant must get a family name of its own. This renaming of plants in different countries and by different scientists will continue until a final, modern DNA analysis is made on all plants and their real relations will be revealed. And that will take years, if not hundreds of years. We will have to live with several synonyms for most plants.

History of Okra

"Okra is found in its wild state on the alluvial banks of the Nile and the Egyptians were the first to cultivate it in the basin of the Nile (12th century BC). It was propagated then through North Africa to the Mediterranean, the Balkans, and India. It arrived in the Americas at Brazil (1658), Dutch Guinea and at New Orleans before extending in the United States and going up to Philadelphia in 1781."

In the 1800's slaves from Africa used ground okra as a part of their diet, and this apparently led to the use of ground okra seeds as a coffee substitute by other southerners during the American Civil War blockades of the 1860's. Even today, ground okra is used in West Africa to make a "...local soup made from dried and ground okra, baobab leaves or rosselle. Fish may be added into it ..." (from a UNDP report).

Cultivation

Start okra from seed - it does not transplant well. The seed should be planted directly in the ground outside about 2 weeks after all danger of frost has passed.

The basic rule is to keep plants separated from each other by about

15 inches. Okra seeds are relatively large and easy to handle. They also germinate well if the soil is warm enough. Okra needs warm weather to grow well. Watering is only needed occasionally.

Most varieties will start yielding about 60 days after planting. The flowers are large, pale yellow and fairly ornamental. Each flower blooms for only one day and eventually forms one okra pod. The plants can eventually grow quite tall (5 feet or more), but will stop growing as soon as the temperature starts dropping down below 50 degrees (F).

One Okra Story

Heather Tutorow sent this story about how okra was introduced to Modesto, California.

My grandparents are transplanted Okies. They moved to Modesto, CA in 1950. My grandpa as long as I can remember has had at least an acre of okra. Right after they moved to Modesto my grandfather woke up one morning to find several Sheriff's officers tromping through the okra and stepping on the watermelon. He went out to see what was up. The Sheriff was convinced that my grandpa was growing pot in his garden. It took a couple cups of coffee and a few of last year's pickled okras to send this law officer on his way. Might you be confused, also? 📍



Strategic planning is a management tool used to help an organization do a better job - to focus its energy, to ensure that members of the organization are working toward the same goals, to assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment. In short, strategic planning is a disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. (Adapted from Bryson's Strategic Planning in Public and Nonprofit Organizations)

Since 1989, The IR-4 Project has used the strategic planning process to plot the direction of the program. Initially, IR-4 used the strategic planning process to respond to new federal regulations. The first plan, approved in 1989, focused on expanding the efforts of the IR-4 Project to develop new pesticide residue data for specialty crops in the context of the re-registration provisions of the 1988 Amendments to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. The second Strategic Plan (approved for the 5-year period 2001-2005) focused on expanding the efforts of the IR-4 Project to encourage registrations of newer, lower risk pest management technology for specialty crops due to the anticipated loss of older technologies following implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. The third Strategic Plan (approved for 2006-2008) incorporated new program initiatives recommended as a result of the IR-4 Project's Strategic Planning Conference, which was held in February 2005.

Planning Strategically

In December, IR-4 held a strategic planning meeting that asked participants to contribute ideas and opinions about the future direction of IR-4, and to identify top priorities for the next five years. The goal of the exercise was to use participant input as a tool in formulating the 2009-2013 IR-4 Strategic Plan.

In order to assist participants in understanding issues pertaining and relating to IR-4, a number of topic area experts addressed the audience. Rob Hedberg Science Policy & Legislative Affairs Advisor, USDA-CSREES, gave a presentation on the trends in USDA research support for specialty crops. These trends include structural changes of USDA-CSREES under the Farm Bill, types of and increased funding opportunities, and a focus on coordinated agricultural projects (CAP). Rob summarized the need for IR-4 to chart a strategic course that lines up with these trends.

IR-4 Executive Director, Jerry Baron, presented an overview of



IR-4 Project Management Committee members (left and center) Bob Hollingworth and Rocky Lundy share a discussion about the new administration with Rob Hedberg, Science Policy & Legislative Affairs Advisor, USDA-CSREES.

the primary programs of the IR-4 Project. He talked about accomplishments from the last strategic plan, the current state of the IR-4 program and options for future initiatives.

John Abbott (Regulatory Affairs, Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.), NAFTA Regulatory Team Leader, gave a presentation titled, Efficacy and Crop Safety Data Needs to Support Specialty Crops, where he touched on the need for efficacy and IR-4's role in the registration process.

David Monks from North Carolina State University suggested IR-4 be more actively engaged in partnerships with the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). He pointed out the mission of CALs and IR-4 are very closely related, and suggested stronger ties could help generate collaborative resources.

More and more retailers like Walmart, Wholefoods, and Home Depot are requiring growers to conform to their specific standards. Matthew Buck from the Food Alliance discussed these market trends and quoted the Natural Marketing Institute's findings that "Sustainability will become the most significant social movement of our time. It will permeate every aspect of consumers' lifestyles business infrastructures and other societal constituencies. . ." In addition to secondary standards, and somewhat related, Alec McErlich from Small Planet foods pointed out the tremendous growth this past decade in organic agriculture. He talked about how this will cause growers to be looking for

y Toward the Future



more and more organic pest management tools and that IR-4 might consider this a future initiative.

To give the participants an overview of regulations, Lois Rossi, Director, EPA Registration Division Office of Pesticide Programs, presented information about global joint reviews and new pesticide active ingredients. Following Lois was Keith Reding from Monsanto who gave a presentation on plant incorporated biotechnology.

The final panelist of the first day, Lance Osborne from the University of Florida, discussed IR-4's critical role, because of its unique infrastructure and partnerships with regulatory agencies, in the management of invasive pests on food and non-food ornamental crops. (Panelist presentations can be found on the IR-4 website at www.ir4.rutgers.edu.)

Having heard these overviews, participants were given the assignment of identifying the successes, driving forces, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges as they relate to the IR-4 program. In order to be as transparent as possible, IR-4 employed the services and technology of Group



Systems, a management group from Penn State. Group Systems developed a group intelligence tool that allows people to simultaneously brainstorm ideas, organize them and instantly have a report of the session. A scribe at each table entered comments/responses into the software, which were immediately projected onto screens, viewed by the entire group. The technology streamlined the process and made it possible for the group to instantly categorize and prioritize ideas.

Participants identified leadership, cooperation, globalization, relationships, product registrations, communication and financial support as IR-4's successes. Some of the driving forces behind IR-4 are customer/stakeholder needs, production capability, people, regulations and economics. When it comes to weaknesses, participants identified funding, efficacy, communication (also identified as a strength), accountability, relationships (also identified as a strength), labeled uses, and organizational structure. There are opportunities for IR-4 and many who commented felt some of these could be found in public health, grant collaboration, communication, invasive pest management, global harmonization, food security, organizational structure, and partnerships. The greatest challenges facing IR-4 are funding,

During the morning discussions, participants were homogeneously grouped to discuss a SWOC analysis. In the afternoon, participants were heterogeneously grouped to allow for a variety of opinions and input.



resources (human and financial), public awareness, and stakeholder involvement.

When asked where IR-4 should invest its energy, this group felt the priorities should be efficacy, harmonization, securing funding, outreach, new initiatives and product registrations.

Participants generally felt the Group Systems process was a good exercise; however, there were considerable comments focused on internal management issues rather than the strategic initiatives IR-4 should consider in coming years. In order to gain increased stakeholder input, the draft strategic document that was captured from the Group Systems exercise will be sent out to the IR-4 community, Commodity Liaison Committee and other specialty crop stakeholders for general comment and further input.

The ultimate goal is to have the PMC use this wide-ranging input to devise a final strategic planning document available to present at the IR-4 tri-annual peer review in May. ▲

IR-4 Successes June through December 2008

June

Federal Register: 6/11/08

Bifenthrin

Trade Names: Brigade

Crops: Leaf petioles subgroup 4B, Bushberry subgroup 13-07B

PR#: 04945, 08736

July

Federal Register: 7/9/08

Gamma-cyhalothrin

Trade Names: Fentrol, Nexide

Crops: Okra, Pistachio

PR#: 09851, 09904

Sethoxydim

Trade Names: Poast

Crops: Gold of pleasure, Crambe, Cuphea, Echium, Hare's ear mustard, Lesquerella, Lunaria, Meadowfoam, Milkweed, Mustard, Oil radish, Poppy, Sesame, Sweet rocket

PR#: 09923

August

Federal Register: 8/13/08

Tebuconazole

Trade Names: Elite, Folicur, Horizon, Lynx

Crops: Bulb onion subgroup 3-07A, Green onion subgroup 3-07B, Brassica leafy greens subgroup 5B, Cucurbit vegetables group 9, Stone fruit group 12 except cherry (post-harvest uses), Asparagus, Garden beet, Hop, Lychee, Mango (post-harvest use), Okra, Turnip (roots and greens), Sunflower

PR#: 07196, 07197, 08365, 07245, 06232, 06510, 05091, 05277, 05278, 05279, 05400, 06321, 06322, 06553, 07991, 06353, 06672, 06702, 06426, 06261, 06234, 06414

Federal Register: 8/15/08

Forchlorfenuron

Trade Names: Prestige

Crops: Bushberry subgroup 13-07B

PR#: 08313

Federal Register: 8/27/08

Cyprodinil

Trade Names: Chieftain, Chorus, Unix, Vanguard

Crops: Root vegetables except sugarbeet subgroup 1B, Leaves of root and tuber vegetables group 2, Cucurbit vegetables group 9, Tomato, Tomatillo, Avocado, Mamey sapote, Papaya, Black sapote, Canistel, Mango, Sapodilla, Star apple, Parsley, Lemon, Lime, Kiwifruit, Bulb onion, Green onion, Strawberry

PR#: 07090, 08933, 09019, 10069, 07124, 07655, 07656, 08124, 07338, 07129, 06982, 07130, 08297, 06981, 08972, 05033, 06790

Dichlobenil

Trade Names: Casoron

Crops: Caneberry subgroup 13-07A (replaces tolerances on blackberry and raspberry),

Bushberry subgroup 13-07B (replaces tolerance on blueberry), Rhubarb

PR#: 01842, 00808, 06665

Fenbuconazole

Trade Names: Enable, Govern, Indar

Crops: Pepper

PR#: 06372

September

Federal Register: 9/5/08

Uniconazole

Trade Names: Sumagic

Crops: Fruiting vegetable group 8

PR#: 04595, 04597

Federal Register: 9/10/08

Fludioxonil

Trade Names: Celest, Geoxe, Maxim, Medallion, Sapphire, Savior, Scholar

Crops: Root vegetables except sugarbeet subgroup 1B, Tuberous and corm vegetables except potato subgroup 1D, Leaves of root and tuber vegetables group 2, Cucurbit vegetables group 9, Tomato, Tomatillo, Avocado, Mamey sapote, Papaya, Black sapote, Canistel, Mango, Sapodilla, Star apple, Citrus oil

PR#: 07090, 09019, 08402, 07124, 07655, 07656, 07338, 07128, 06982, 07129, 08124

Federal Register: 9/17/08

Ethoprop

Trade Names: Chipco, Mocap

Crops: Hop, Mint

PR#: 02734, 04012

Federal Register: 9/25/08

Metaldehyde

Trade Names: Deadline

The trade names listed below are provided as a means to identify the chemical for which a tolerance has been established. A trade name listed here may not be the name of the product on which the new food use(s) will be registered. Only labeled products may be used on a food crop. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical.

Crops: Globe artichoke,
Prickly pear cactus,
Watercress, Berry group 13
PR#: 07396, 07395, 07370,
07397

Streptomycin

Trade Names: Agri-Mycin
Crops: Bean (dry seed and succulent)
PR#: 06347

October

Federal Register: 10/08/08

Cymoxanil

Trade Names: Curzate
Crops: Bulb onion subgroup 3-07A, Green onion subgroup 3-07B, Leafy greens subgroup 4A, Leaf petioles subgroup 4B, Cilantro leaves, Caneberry subgroup 13-07A
PR#: 08303, 08308, 08499, 08758, 08766

November

Federal Register: 11/12/08

MCPB

Trade Names: Butoxone, Thistrol
Crops: Mint
PR#: 04757

Federal Register: 11/14/08

Tetraconazole

Trade Names: Arpege, Domark, Emerald, Eminent, Greman, Lospel
Crops: Grape
PR#: 09663

December

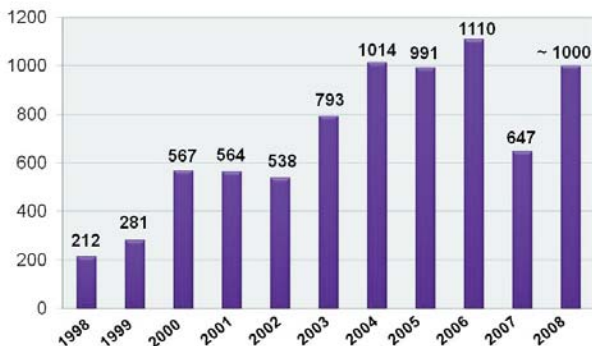
Federal Register: 12/3/08

Chlorothalonil

Trade Name: Bravo



Track Record Food Use Registrations



Crops: Head and stem Brassica subgroup 5A, Fruiting vegetable group 8 (except tomato), Okra, Cucurbit vegetable group 9, Ginseng, True yam, Horseradish, Rhubarb
PR#: 03169, 00032, 00571, 01154, 00353, 03860, 03861, 03950, 00988, 01414, 02392, 05410

Federal Register: 12/10/08

Novaluron

Trade Name: Rimon
Crops: Tomato, Sugarcane
PR#: 08419, 09903

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Those New to IR-4 in 2008

USDA-ARS

Barry Miller is the new Field Research Director at the Maricopa, AZ center. He will manage a full set of trials in 2009.

Barry completed his B.A. in Natural Sciences from California State University in 2002 where he majored in biology and minored in geology.

Barry served as an Intelligence Analyst for the US Army during Desert Storm and taught 8th and 9th grade science in Fresno and Los Angeles.

Barry is busily completing GLP training and handling audit requests from HQ on trials conducted by his predecessors.

Leona Horst is the new ARS IR-4 Field Research Director in Wooster, OH. Before accepting the position, she had worked as a plant pathologist for USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Application Technology Research Unit in Wooster, OH. There she conducted research emphasizing biological control of *Botrytis cinerea* on ornamentals and as an electron microscopist.

She also assisted the IR-4 workers in Wooster for 14 years

when additional people were needed for applications and harvests.

Leona has earned a BS in microbiology and chemistry, a BA in Education from the University of Akron, and a MS, in Plant Pathology from The Ohio State University.

In 2003, Leona received an IR-4 Technical Service Award for her work in the ARS, Specialty Crop (Minor Use Pesticide) Program.

Robert Giddens is the new IR-4 Research Technician for USDA-ARS at the Crop Protection & Management Research Unit in Tifton, GA. He has an educational background in welding, metal technology and electronics.

Robert's previous work experience includes 8 years as a research technician for the University of Georgia. He began his career with the USDA-ARS in 1988 working 12 years as a mechanical engineer and then 8 years in agricultural research.

Western Region

Phillip Kaspari from Delta Junction, Alaska is the new Alaskan State Liaison Representative. He is an Agricultural Extension Agent with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service. Phil directs the Pesticide Safety Information Program and is also a commercial hay grower.

Phil is an active member of the Delta Farm Bureau.

Meghan Loiz has taken over for Clark Oman at the Colorado State University Field Research Center. Prior to IR-4 Meghan worked in the ornamental horticulture industry.

Keri Skiles, who assisted David Ennes at Kearney, is now promoted to Field Research Director, and she and David will share the forty plus trial workload at Kearney. Prior to IR-4, Keri was a research assistant at Research for Hire in Porterville, CA.

Southern Region

The Southern Region welcomes Michelle Samuel-Foo as its new Regional Field Coordinator. Michelle comes to the University of Florida having recently completed her PhD from the University of Georgia (UGA).

In 2001, Michelle was granted an agronomy research assistantship at the UGA Griffin Experiment Station. There she was part of the wheat genetics improvement team, where her work involved using molecular markers as a tool in the search for Hessian Fly resistance. She was also involved in the field aspects of the program which included monitoring pest populations and disease occurrence as well as planting, harvesting and post harvest processing.

Michelle also earned a MS in

Agronomy from UGA in 2003 (Summa cum laude) and a BA in biology from Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, GA.

The Southern Region also experienced the closing of one research center and the opening of another. The center in Jackson, TN closed in 2008 and a new center in Fayetteville, AR will take on the trials from the TN center. The new Field Research Director in Fayetteville will be Nilda Burgos.

Nilda earned a bachelor's degree in Agriculture, Soil Science major, in 1983 from the Visayas State College of Agriculture, Leyte, Philippines. She was granted a graduate assistantship at the Department of Agronomy, University of Arkansas, by Dr. Ron Talbert for both Master's and Doctorate degrees in Weed Science.

Nilda earned a Ph. D. in Agronomy, specializing in Weed Science, from the University of Arkansas. She worked as field biologist for ZENECA Ag Products, and for the University of Arkansas as an Assistant Professor.

North Central Region

Russell Groves, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin is now "co-liaison" with Dan Heider.

Russell earned a BS in Forestry from Iowa State University, a MS in Entomology from the University of Arkansas, and his Entomology Ph.D. from N.C.


State University.

Russell's goal as an extension educator, is to create an environment conducive to learning and information exchange where vegetable industry stakeholders can be motivated to acquire new information, concepts and skills.

North East Region

NER is opening a field research center at the Rutgers Fruit Research and Extension Center, Cream Ridge, NJ to conduct GLP trials in perennial fruit. Tom Freiberger will be taking on FRD responsibilities, assisted by Dave Bodine. Tom is no stranger to IR-4, having conducted IR-4 ornamentals studies since 2003. Tom, an agribusiness graduate of Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture, comes with several years experience in tree fruit production. Dave, a Rutgers Graduate, will be assisting Tom on the residue trials as well as the 60 plus ornamentals trials they will continue to conduct yearly.

Zvonko Jacimovski is joining Robin Bellinder's group as the technician in charge of IR-4 trials. Zvonko is a graduate of the University of Belgrade and comes with over 15 years of experience in crop and orchard production, focusing on crop protection with FAO UN, BASF and private industry.

IR-4 welcomes those joining the program. 

Calendar of Events

February 23, 2009
½ day PM GLP Training
San Antonio, TX

February 24-25, 2009
National Education
Conference
San Antonio, TX

March 17-18, 2009
Western Region SLR/CLC
Meeting
Bozeman and Pray, MT

May 19-20, 2009
IR-4 Peer Review
Princeton, NJ

August 10-11, 2009
NCR SLR Meeting
Kansas City, MO

August 25-26, 2009
SLR Meeting
Myrtle Beach, SC

September 15-16, 2009
2009 Food Use Workshop
Cleveland, OH

October 6-8, 2009
2009 Ornamental
Horticulture Workshop
Cleveland, OH

October 14-15, 2009
2009 ARS LR Meeting
Cleveland, OH

October 27-28, 2009
National Research Planning
Meeting
Princeton, NJ

In Memoriam

Deborah Szarkowski Effron (Debi), Administrative Assistant to the Western Region IR-4 Program, passed away on Friday, January 16, 2009, after a sudden bout with a very aggressive cancer. To those who work in the Western Region IR-4 field program she was instrumental in keeping the Field Office organized and getting notebooks, protocols, documentation from one place to the next in a timely manner. Nothing sat for long on Debi's desk. She also was key to many of the Western Region's successful meetings and training programs making sure "things" were taken care of from behind the scenes. She was the Western Region photographer and resident artist who helped the Western Region look good with her creative talents. She was always welcoming in the office, in person or on the phone. The Western Region will miss her presence, contributions and support.

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