



# IR-4's National Education Conference

## What's Happening

**Jerry Baron**  
**Executive Director**  
**The IR-4 Project**

# IR-4's National Education Conference



## IR-4's National Education Conference



Van Starner, Chair

John Wise

Roger Batts

Martin Beran

Sharon Benzen

Robin Federline

Tom Freiburger

Dan Heider

Matt Hengel

Will Meeks

Sherri Novack

Marylee Ross

Ken Samoil

Peter Sturman

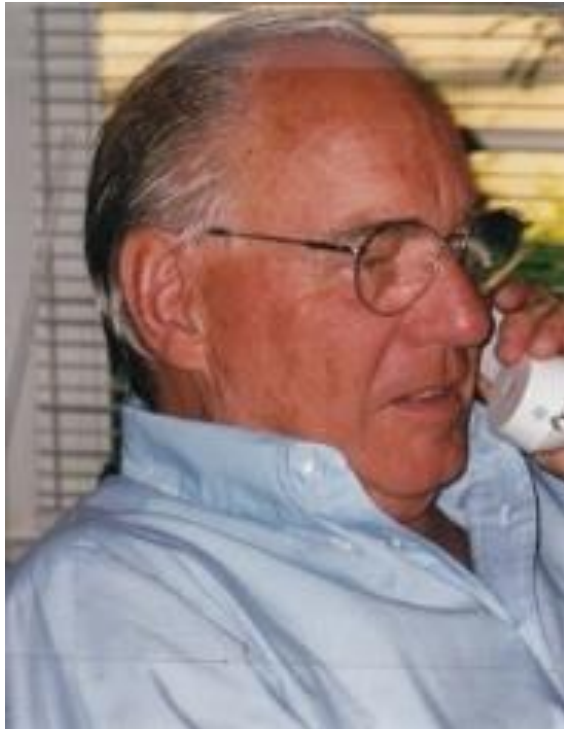
# Overview

- People
- Successes
- Challenges & Threats
- Path Forward
- CLC Activity

# People Update



# Dick Guest (1931-2017)



# Robin Bellinder (1945-2015)



## **Robin Bellinder Graduate Student Fund.**

The fund will be established *“to provide financial support for graduate students working on vegetables crops, with a preference given to projects with a weed science emphasis.*

A colorful, circular foil balloon with a scalloped edge. The balloon is divided into several sections of different colors and patterns: a red section with orange polka dots, a yellow section with a grid pattern, a blue section with a solid color, a purple section with a grid pattern, and a green section with a solid color. The words "Happy Retirement" are printed in a large, silver, cursive font across the center. There are also several stars and swirls scattered around the text. A large green star is at the top, a large red star is at the bottom, and a small rainbow circle is at the very bottom center. Silver swirls and stars are also present in the red, yellow, and purple sections.

Happy Retirement



## Retirements

- Bob Hollingworth-NCR Regional Director
- Diane Infante-IR-4 Data Manager
- Marty Marshall-SOR Regional Director
- Edith Lurvey-NER Reg. Field Coordinator
- Dan Rossi-NE Region Admin. Advisor
- Joe DeFrancesco-OR State Liaison & FRD
- Paul Schwartz-ARS Program Manager
- Becky Sisco-WSR Reg. Field Coordinator



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## Recent Success-Food Prog.

- 1000 new uses approved in 2016,
  - Following record number of approvals (1175) in 2015
  - Registrations that are critically important to specialty crops under challenging regulatory conditions
- Expansion of EPA crop groupings, domestically & internationally

# Challenges

## 2016 Field Program

- Significant changes from last year's FUW
  - Flubendiamide
  - Specific PPD requirements
  - Emerging regulatory concerns
  - Overcommitted on tropical crops

## Success

- Over 40,000 uses registered for specialty crops and minor uses since 1963
- Majority are reduced/lower risk technology and registered in the last 15 years

# Benefits

- **Growers**

- Legal access to safe & effective pest management technology.....grow high quality crops

- **Food Processors & Food Retailers**

- Consistent supply of materials

- **Public**

- Plentiful supply of fruits & vegetables that contribute to a healthy diet & plants/flowers that that enhance the environment

- **Economy**

- IR-4 contributes \$7.2 Billion to annual US GDP/supports 104,650 jobs

## Global Efforts

- Domestic growers want access to international markets
- Lack of MRL harmonization is a trade barrier
- Funds from FAS to “enhance” domestic data development to support harmonized MRLs
  - More field trials/more decline samples/additional metabolites
- Mentor international “IR-4s”; cooperate in joint data development

## Other International Success

- IR-4's Global Residue Studies
  - Tomato - key part of EPA global “exchangeability” proposal
  - Blueberry - registered
- Global Partners
  - Capacity building efforts
  - EU Coordination Facility
- Global Minor Use Summits/Workshops
- Dan Kunkel - IUPAC Award



In the middle of a  
difficulty lies  
opportunity.

-Albert Einstein

## Challenges/Threats

### Product Performance Data (PPD) Development

- IR-4 being asked to develop more PPD – why?
  - Higher “bar”/California registration
  - Liability
  - Lack of research scientists
- More \$ for PPD (from IR-4 & Industry)
- PPD Team
  - Appropriate focus
  - Process improvements
  - Integration of biopesticides and conventional for R<sup>2</sup> approach

## Challenges/Threats

### University Service Fees (indirect costs/overhead)

- IR-4's Federal authorizing language does not allow universities to charge overhead
- Universities under intense fiscal challenges; some can no longer absorb these costs
  - Cornell ended IR-4 involvement
  - Others (e.g. Univ. of FL, UCD) to follow?
- USDA believes they can modify agreement, allow Universities to collect 10% overhead
- Without new funds – **A Devastating Outcome**

## Challenges/Threats

### EPA

IR-4 & Specialty Crop Community are significantly concerned b/c:

- FQPA fears coming true – wholesale cancellations of chemical classes (OP's)
- Reliance on non-core studies, such as epidemiology studies
- Use of conservative models that overestimate risk
- Latest challenge - funding cuts at EPA; threaten specialty crops more than major crops

# Challenges/Threats

## Mergers in Industry

- $1 + 1 < 2$
- Paralysis by Analysis
- Higher economic bar for new uses
- Less investment in new technology
- Opportunities for smaller companies & emerging technology

# Challenges/Threats

## US Government Funding

- IR-4 funding flat for last five years, lower \$ than in 2009
- Expenses continue to rise
- IR-4 has had to reduce research to balance budget
- Future funding – the new abnormal

# Path Forward Process

Started October 2015

## Components

- Assess indirect cost issue
- Perform an Organizational Assessment
- Analyze the impact of a 10% reduction in funding
- Explore potential sources of new revenue
- Communication with specialty crop/pest management community

## Need for IR-4 Continues to Increase

- EPA regulatory requirements are increasing while industry consolidates → more minor uses with higher development costs
- Specialty crop community needs access to international markets → increased size & complexity of IR-4 studies
- The crop protection industry is requiring more robust crop safety and product performance testing on specialty crops → increased IR-4 research costs



## What have we learned:

- Universities will continue aggressive indirect cost recovery
- Organizational Assessment → recommendation to maintain existing network of research centers; seek savings from process improvements
- Focus on increased revenue, aggressively seek new funds:
  - Solicit new funding partners from the produce supply chain
  - Embrace contract research
  - New grants from public and philanthropic sources
  - Coordinated effort by specialty crop community to have Congress upwardly adjust IR-4 funding

## Action Items

### What can you do:

- Become an active participant in efforts by commodity associations/food processors and other organizations to educate and advocate for increased funding for IR-4 from the US Congress; **Current request is to increase IR-4 funding from \$11.9 million to \$19 million**
- Private sector - establish or increase an annual unrestricted contribution to IR-4
- Educate others in your networks about the contributions of IR-4 to crop protection and food production; let them know of the critical fiscal challenges IR-4 is facing; please help us make connections with others who can help

# Commodity Liaison Committee

## New and expanding membership

- Twelve new members in the last 3 years
  - Mike Bledsoe, Chair
  - Todd Scholz, Vice Chair
- A new sense of organized “activism”
- Congressional Liaison Sub-Committee:  
Lori Berger, Allen Mize, Laura Phelps, Keith Pitts,  
Steve Salisbury, Bob Simerly, Dennis Tristao.
- Appropriation process vs. Farm Bill

# The Grand Challenge-2050

Where will we  
find enough food  
for ~~9~~ billion?

**10**

THANK YOU!

