Pesticide Performance Data Development at Public Institutions

David Monks
Assistant Director, NCARS
NC State University
Surveyed a Number of People

- How will the trend in reduction of support of applied pest management work change over the next several years?
- How do you believe these changes will affect the IR-4 Projects activities?
- How can IR-4 work to supplement the loss of the mission oriented expertise?
Institutions (CALS) are Faced With:

- Redefining their land grant identity
- Blend of basic vs applied (NC State 60% applied)
- Low budgets and budget reductions (5-20% red.)
  - High personnel (many >90%)/low or no operating
- Colleges will likely be smaller in the future
  - Fewer support staff
  - Fewer faculty
  - Fewer graduate students
    - Fewer graduates for applied positions
Programs in the CALS

- Programs generally arise from departments
- Departments generally negotiate with college administration for programs
At One Land Grant University......more to come

• One major land grant university Hort. Science Dept.
  – Rifted 6 technicians
  – 5 applied faculty retired, 1 hired back
  – Applied research and extension are being reduced
  – Applied courses are being eliminated
  – 2/3 of funding from industry lost
Faculty are faced with:

- Declining budgets
  - Operating
  - Support staff
- Sources of funding are declining
  - Fewer companies, as commodities struggle so does their funding (not consistent from yr to yr)
  - Competitive grants (low % funded)
    - Multistate
    - Large collaborative grants
    - Multi-disciplinary
Faculty are faced with:

• Costs of doing research are increasing
  – Recent survey showed that Experiment Stations (research office) are struggling to support research stations. Consequently, costs will likely be passed on to faculty
    • Land use fees
    • Supplies (supplies, gas, etc)

• Most funding agencies do not support exploratory pesticide efficacy research
Changing (over 15 yr period) in funding for a weed science program.
Percent of funding source for a weed science program.
Faculty Concerns

- May be forced to look to other sources (competitive, commodity, etc) of funding & other areas of research if there is no funding to support preliminary exploratory herbicide screening in vegetable or fruit crops
- May not be a way to cover herbicide screening from other sources
- Few programs producing PhD candidates for applicants to apply positions. (~5 for veg., ornamentals weed science)
Faculty Concerns

• New faculty are often not familiar with IR-4
• Heavy pressure to bring in large grants with overhead
• Fewer faculty willing to do applied research if funding is limited
• Heavy pressure to publish
Opportunity

• Much opportunity in agriculture is related to small acreage specialty crops
• The success of these enterprises is directly related to how successful growers are in producing crops (culture, pest management)
• Loss of applied programs including pest management positions will make it very difficult for growers to be successful
• College administration respond to grower pressure
Opportunity

Address the following:

• IR-4 must continue to connect with growers so they can make the case for applied pesticide efficacy research
• They must have advocates & participants on faculty
• Recruitment of new faculty into pesticide research/IR-4
• Connect with CALS administration (College & Dept)– showing how pesticide efficacy/IR-4 helps them meet their mission
  – How many programs (faculty, grower assn., etc) does IR-4 impact
Suggestions

• Faculty are able to conduct research and be engaged in areas where funding is available
• Multiple sources of funding is important for a successful program
• It will be important for funding to be available to keep faculty engaged (IR-4, commodity assn, etc)
Suggestions

It is very important for continued collaboration for success:

– Land Grant Univ. – Extension/Research
– IR-4
– Industry
– Commodity Associations
– ie multiple sources of support for projects
  • IR-4/Watermelon Association/Valent
  • IR-4/Small Fruit Consortium/Valent
Suggestions

• CALS & IR-4 missions are closely aligned
• Engage grower assn to actively support IR-4’s mission working together at the state level to support projects
• Provide funding to support efficacy projects
• Work with dept & college administration (extension & research) to maintain expertise at land grant universities (identify, meet needs and priorities)
• Start an online refereed journal “Pest Management in High Value Crop”
• Connect with Graduate students and New faculty