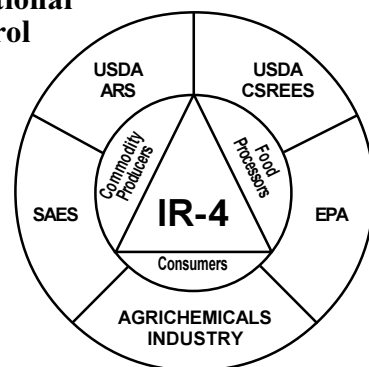


Minor Crop Pest Management, IR-4 - A National
Agricultural Program to Clear Pest Control
Agents for Minor Uses

IR-4 Newsletter

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*For July - September 1999 (3rd Quarter)

IR-4 Highlights (Partner Outreach)

Editor's Note: IR-4 Highlights by the Executive Director is an outreach feature of the Newsletter, focused primarily on articles in this issue.

This summer has been an extremely busy and active one for the Headquarters staff. One of the best ways to know our ultimate customers' (growers, farmers, etc.) needs is to go out and talk with them. We have had one or more representatives attending the following tours: Washington Pest control Tour (7/20 to 7/22), Puerto Rico Agricultural Tour (7/30), Beyond the Big Apple II Tour (8/11 and 12) and Northwest Minor Crop Field Symposium (8/17-8/19). These tours offered great opportunities to hear directly from farmers who are battling difficult economic times, drought in some areas, water utilization concerns and potential loss of crop protection chemicals due to possible FQPA regulatory actions. Many of the growers were aware directly or indirectly of the IR-4 program and our focus on registering newer, reduced risk chemistries and biopesticides, but were still concerned that adequate time be allowed to evaluate them after registration before restrictive actions were taken against their current tool box of products which for some minor/minor crops may be only a few at best.

Continued on Page 2

United States Department of Agriculture

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IR-4 Highlights (Partner Outreach)

Continued from Page 1

Starting my second year on the IR-4 Team is allowing an exposure to the annual program cycle for another time. Such was my experience with the recent Food Use Workshop held in Denver, CO from August 25th to 27th. It was a great opportunity to interact with all of our partners (crop protection industry including strong biopesticide company representation, the EPA, our Commodity Liaison Committee, growers, the land grant university research and extension staff, our Canadian partners, guests from Mexico, etc.) with nearly 150 in attendance. Each session (Plant Pathology, Entomology and Weed Science/PGR's) had between 75 and 100 participants who helped the initial prioritization process. Our industry partners made excellent contributions by starting off each session with key product updates including registration status, company plans and crops for IR-4 projects. Many thanks to all the Headquarters staff who made the meeting such a success by selecting the site, coordinating the registrations, setting the agendas, moderating the sessions and facilitating product and crop specific discussions. The prioritization process resulted in 64 'A' priority and 150 'B' priority projects. IR-4 has committed in previous years to complete all 'A' priority projects and initiate as many of the 'B' priority projects as our budget and staff restraints allow. In recent years, this has accounted for about 150 projects per year meaning that we should be able to consider about 86 'B' projects or 57% of the 'B' total in addition to the 64 'A' projects unless additional budget support comes from Congress for FY 2000. We should know the status of our Congressional funding in advance of our National Research Planning Meeting scheduled for October 26th and 27th at the Headquarters offices to make the final project selections for next year. For more detail, refer to the Workshop article on page 13.

Our next general partnership meeting opportunity was at our Annual Meeting held in Washington, D.C. from October 4th through the 7th. By the time this Newsletter reaches you, we will have held our Symposium on Future Approaches to Minor Crop Pest Management scheduled for October 5th (PM) and October 6th. The purpose of the Symposium was to bring together our national IR-4 personnel (State Liaison Representatives, Regional Teams, ARS and Headquarters) along with invited guests from the EPA, crop protection industry, USDA, public interest groups, the greater land grant university system, food processors, policy makers, etc. to help us determine our future strategies and priorities. The program was divided into three topic areas (Speeding the Flow of New Technologies to Minor Crop Growers, The Role of IR-4 in Making Biopesticides and Transgenic Varieties Available for Minor Crops and The Future Relationship Between IR-4 and the Other USDA IPM/Pesticide Programs)

with each session starting off with invited keynote speakers. Following the formal presentations, the attendees were divided into discussion groups to address key questions related to the topic. Input from each discussion group was made to the general attendees with final recommendations for consideration by IR-4 to update our Strategic Plan for the next five years. This meeting will be followed by a Project Management Committee Strategic Planning Retreat to be held in Portland Oregon on October 19th in conjunction with the Ornamentals Workshop. The goal is to discuss the recommendations resulting from the Symposium discussion groups and incorporate them into an updated strategic plan for the first five years of the next century. The Symposium was a great opportunity to get a reading on our new proactive approaches and how we can improve them to be more effective and efficient in providing the best crop protection solutions and technologies available to our minor crop growers to help them cope with the increasingly complex set of challenges they face as they try to stay in business and remain competitive on a global basis.

Our international partnerships continue to grow and flourish. Our Canadian colleagues represented by Doug Rothwell continue to participate actively in our programs and are cooperating on nine residue projects in 1999. Wendy Sexsmith, also from Health Canada/Pest Management Regulatory Agency, is Director of Alternative Strategies and Regulatory Affairs and has taken a leadership role with Janet Andersen, Director of the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division, U.S. EPA, to establish a process for joint review of pest control products in which the new active ingredients are microbial or arthropod semiochemicals (including pheromones). We are working with Wendy and Janet to set up a meeting to include IR-4 to determine how we can effectively participate in this important NAFTA initiative. In addition, as a result of my presentation in a symposium entitled "Harmonization of Pesticide Registration" as part of the joint American/Canadian Phytopathological Society Meeting, I have been invited to discuss IR-4 programs and possible cooperative initiatives with the European Union (EU) at the Fourth Mediterranean Conference in Greece on October 14th and 15th sponsored by the European Crop Protection Association. Our strategy in working with the EU is similar to working with our Canadian partners, that is, to share residue information on active ingredients and minor crops grown under similar climatic conditions to develop a residue database for North American and European regulatory decisions and aid harmonization of tolerances. Based on our progress with Canada, the European cooperation initiative looks hopeful. More about that trip in the Winter Newsletter.

Continued on Page 3

IR-4 Highlights (Partner Outreach)

Continued from Page 2

From a personnel viewpoint, we welcome Dr. Van Starner to our Headquarters Team as a Study Director. Van comes to us with a wealth of crop protection industry experience at Merck and Novartis as noted in the article on page 19. While we are recognizing people, the Headquarters staff would like to extend our sincere congratulations to Jim Jones, EPA Registration Division Director, as being selected as only one of two Senior Executive Service Managers in the EPA. The award recognizes model managers who demonstrate leadership skills and vision to create and sustain effective, high performing organizations. Jim certainly fits

that role in his 11 years of EPA service and had previously received the Lee M. Thomas Excellence in Management Award. It certainly is easy to see why our partnership with the Agency has developed so quickly this past year when we have fine managers like Jim to work with. Read more about our EPA Partnership in the article by Ken Samoil on page 18.

In summary, this may have been a long, hot, dry summer in many parts of the country, but at IR-4 Headquarters we feel the momentum for our programs and initiatives continues. We face the next decade, century and millennium with a lot of optimism!

Article by Bob Holm

IR-4 Headquarters - Presentations

Bob Holm - "New Perspectives for the Future of the IR-4 Program" presented to Western Region Experiment Station Directors Meeting on 7/12, Abbott Laboratories on 7/21, Cornell University, Ithaca on 7/22, Northeast Region IR-4 Team and Geneva Campus/Cornell University on 7/23, Joint American/Canadian Phytopathological Society Meeting on 8/10, USDA Programs on Pest Management Meeting on 8/30 and the EPA Special Review and Reregistration Division on 9/13.

CONGRATULATIONS AND NEWS

- Dr. A.W. Johnson, Research Leader for Nematodes, Weeds and Crops Unit at the USDA-ARS Tifton, GA site plans to retire 1 JAN 2000. Bill is the Field Research Director for IR-4 trials at Tifton. He is an outstanding researcher and leader, and will be surely missed.
- See the "New IR-4 Web Site" <http://www.cook.rutgers.edu/~ir4>. The electronic Newsletter has arrived.

Regional News

New Director for the Northeast Region - Welcome Aboard!

Dr. David M. Soderlund has been appointed as the Director of the Northeast Region of the IR-4 Program. Dr. Soderlund replaces Dr. Richard A. Durst, who has moved to a new position as Chair of the Department of Food Science and Technology, Geneva, and Associate Director of the Cornell Institute of Food Science. We thank Dr. Durst for his time and efforts on behalf of the IR-4 Project and wish him well in his new endeavors.

Dr. Soderlund is Professor of Insecticide Toxicology in the Department of Entomology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, New York, a branch campus of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of Cornell University. Dr. Soderlund's research program focuses on the molecular neuropharmacology of insecticide action and the elucidation of molecular mechanisms of insecticide resistance. He is widely recognized as an authority on the toxicology and mode of action of pyrethroid insecticides.

In addition to his research activities, Dr. Soderlund has served for more than 20 years as a consultant to agrochemical firms in the areas of insect biochemistry, insecticide toxicology, and insecticide discovery research strategies.

Prior to joining the Cornell University faculty in 1978, Dr. Soderlund was a postdoctoral fellow in the Insecticides and Fungicides Department at Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, England. Dr. Soderlund received a B.S. degree in Biology from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington in 1971 and a Ph.D. degree in Entomology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1976.

Editor

Minor Crop Pest Management, Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4) National Agricultural Program To Clear Pest Control Agents for Minor Uses

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IR-4 REGIONAL/HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS - DIRECTORIES

To provide appropriate public accessibility to IR-4 State and Federal (USDA-ARS) Liaison Representatives, Regional Project Management Committee Representatives, Regional Field Coordinators, Regional Laboratory Coordinators, Re-

gional QA Coordinators, Headquarters, etc., we are including updated listings as attachments to this Newsletter. Telephone numbers, FAX numbers, and E-mail addresses are indicated for all contacts.

CALENDAR

October 1999

- 4-5 IR-4 Project Management Committee Fall Meeting, Washington, DC
- 5-6 IR-4 Symposium "Future for Minor Crop Pest Management", Washington, DC
- 7 IR-4 36th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- 18-21 USDA/IR-4 Ornamentals Use Workshop, Portland, Oregon
- 20-21 IR-4 USDA-ARS Liaison Meeting, Portland, Oregon
- 26-27 IR-4 National Research Planning Meeting IR-4 Headquarters, Rutgers University, North Brunswick, New Jersey

January, 2000

- 9-11 American Farm Bureau Meeting, Houston, Texas

February, 2000

- 22-23 Spring Project Management Committee Meeting, Washington, DC

Regional News

Northeast Region Field Research Coordinator Report

Sandy Perry, IR-4 outreach specialist, and Dr. Bob Holm visited the region the third week in July. We were able to visit the field sites of two Cornell cooperators, Dr. Robin Bellinder and Dr. Wayne Wilcox. We also took tours of the analytical labs, farm and food processing pilot plant of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva. Dr. Holm presented his update on IR-4 in both Ithaca and Geneva. I would like to thank all the people on both campuses who worked so hard to make the visit a success.

Despite an incredibly hot, dry summer for the northeast, the research plots survived, and are now being harvested. In general, harvests are about two weeks ahead of normal which has caused a bit of scrambling to insure that in-life audits were completed and all support was in place.

The EPA audited the Pennsylvania State University field site in September. There were no findings. This was the second audit for this research site, and indicates that the IR-4 implementation of GLPs is working.

Article by Edith Lurvey

- "Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture."
- "This material is based upon work supported by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Hatch Act and Agreement No. 98-34383-5993."
- This Newsletter does not constitute a recommendation for use. The pesticide registrant or Cooperative Extension should be consulted for specific use information.
- IR-4 thanks the many research cooperators who have provided data to support the needed registrations.
- Pesticide User Responsibility: Use pesticides safely and follow instructions on labels. The user is responsible for the proper use of pesticides, residues on crops, storage and disposal, as well as damages caused by drift.
- Use of Trade Names: Trade names are used in this publication with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. In some instances the compound may be sold under different trade names, which may vary as to label clearances.

The IR-4 Newsletter

The IR-4 NEWSLETTER is published quarterly for distribution to cooperators in our partner State/Federal/Industry research units, State and Federal officials, private interest groups, and private citizens. Scientists at the IR-4 National Headquarters, regional, state, and federal level, and on the IR-4 Project Management Committee contribute articles in their areas of expertise. The Newsletter design and layout are done by Cheryl Ferrazoli. This partnership publication is printed and distributed by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. Material from the IR-4 Newsletter may be reproduced with credit to the publication. Major funding for IR-4 is provided by USDA-CSREES and USDA-ARS in cooperation with the State Agricultural Experiment Stations.

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Sincerely,

George M. Markle, Editor
Associate Director
Newsletter Team
IR-4 Project

cc: Rutgers University Library of Science and Medicine
ATTENTION: University Archivist/Gov't Doc. Dept.