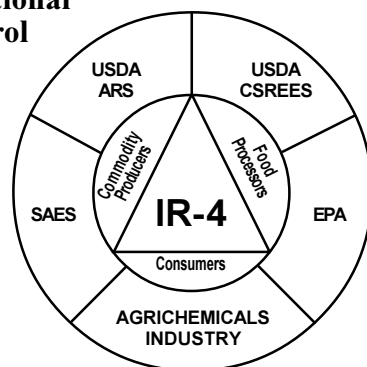


Minor Crop Pest Management, IR-4 - A National
Agricultural Program to Clear Pest Control
Agents for Minor Uses

IR-4 Newsletter

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AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER

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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.

To my amazement, there never seems to be a lack of issues to write about when I sit down every three months to provide program highlights. One of our key new century accomplishments was the publication of the IR-4 Strategic Plan entitled "A Strategy for Meeting the Challenge of Crop Pest Management on Minor Crops - 2001 to 2005" in January. This was the culmination of many months of discussions by the Project Management Committee (PMC) which started at our October Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. with excellent stakeholder input as part of the Symposium entitled "Future Approaches to Minor Crop Pest Management." The Symposium Proceedings have been compiled by Sandy Perry and are available from the Regional Offices and Headquarters. Please drop us a line if you would like a copy. Those stakeholder inputs were the basis of the PMC Strategic Planning Meeting in late October which resulted in the selection of the top six priorities. These priorities were subsequently divided into seven initiatives which are highlighted in the strategic plan and

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United States Department of Agriculture

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IR-4 Highlights (Partner Outreach)

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are as follows: 1) Continued commitment to food use and ornamental minor crop pest management; 2) Accelerate the registration of newer, Reduced-Risk chemistries; 3) Speed the access of new and safer chemistries to minor crop growers; 4) Methyl bromide alternatives; 5) Efficacy studies; 6) Upgrading Regional Laboratories, Field Research Centers and USDA-ARS facilities; and, 7) Strengthen support for State Liaison Representatives and other stakeholders. The rationale and action plans for each initiative are outlined in the strategic plan along with a proposed funding increase in FY 2001 of \$3.5 million (\$2.5 million for CSREES and \$1.0 million for ARS). The proposed 2001 President's budget contains a \$1.77 million increase for CSREES and \$1 million for ARS. We greatly appreciate the efforts of Rocky Lundy, Executive Director of the Mint Industry Research Council and Chairman of the IR-4 Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC), for the efforts by the CLC to support our budget requests with Congress. Anyone wishing a copy of the strategic plan can contact the Regional Offices or Headquarters.

Our partnership with the EPA continues to result in numerous win-win situations and many success stories. The depth of the level of cooperation and commitment through the EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group was evidenced in January after our scheduled meeting on the 25th was snowed out. George Markle, IR-4 Associate Director, and Hoyt Jamerson, EPA Minor Use Officer, had the meeting rescheduled and held within 10 days (on February 3rd). Ken Samoil has an article on this meeting and the 28th of March meeting, page 16. Future meetings planned this year include a June tour. One of the early 2000 highlights was the January 12th *Federal Register* announcement of 165 minor crop clearances for Spinosad as the result of the blanket tolerances/super crop grouping initiative by Keith Dorschner last year. We ended our 1999 calendar year with 313 food crop clearances (255 chemical plus 58 biopesticide) and 532 ornamental clearances. This is compared to a pre-FQPA 12 year food crop average of 100 clearances, 1 tolerance in 1997 and 58 clearances in 1998. The 1999 clearance record is truly one that both IR-4 and the EPA can be proud of.

With 118 petitions scheduled for EPA review in 2000, we could easily top the 313 clearances issued last year with the 165 Spinosad clearances already approved. We have already provided a list of almost 300 possible petitions for Agency review in FY 2001, starting 1 October 2000. The Registration Division proposed a possible 130 petition FY 2001 workload at our February EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group Meeting. For more details on our 2000 work plan, please refer to

the article by Dan Kunkel, Registration Manager, on page 8. One reason for the potential for more IR-4 petitions being reviewed in FY 2001 is the partnership opportunities being developed by both IR-4 and the EPA, especially by Jim Jones and the Registration Division, with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR). Based on a meeting Jim and I had with CDPR management in Sacramento, California in January and subsequent discussions, CDPR is willing to serve as the primary reviewer of selected IR-4 minor crop tolerance petitions.

Our partnership with the crop protection industry has continued through individual company visits, New Technology Team initiatives (see Jerry Baron's article on page 16), our Methyl Bromide Alternatives Program (refer to Jack Norton's article on page 13) and contacts with the American Crop Protection Association (ACPA). I explored more general levels of cooperation between IR-4 and the ACPA at their February Science and Regulatory Oversight Council Meeting. One of the initiatives with the greatest short term potential is the opportunity to use and share minor crop residue data between NAFTA and European Union (EU) countries. Doug Rothwell has been an active participant from Canada in our Food Use Workshops and National Research Planning Meetings in recent years which has resulted in numerous joint projects and reviews. Dan Kunkel has taken the leadership in setting up joint residue projects with Germany with quinoxifen/hop and dimethomorph/cucurbits. Residue data from these projects will be submitted to the EPA and the EU. One initiative that the ACPA is participating in which could be of great value to joint EU and NAFTA minor crop residue programs is a zonal agroclimatic map like that in place with Canada and the US which would include similar European minor crop growing regions. This would facilitate utilization of minor crop residue data being used by both the EU and the EPA for minor crop tolerances as well as address import/export residue issues. We are quite proud of our Methyl Bromide Alternatives Program and its progress this past year from a New Technology Team idea to a full fledged field program on strawberries and tomatoes in Florida and California under Jack Norton's leadership. The monetary and technical support from the crop protection companies whose technology is being evaluated is greatly appreciated and has started to yield tangible results as discussed in Jack's article on page 13. We look to expand the program into cut flowers and nursery crops later this year through Alliances being developed in California and cooperation with the USDA's programs - both the ongoing ARS programs and the recently funded CSREES program.

IR-4 Highlights (Partner Outreach)

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Although our food crop residue programs appear to capture a lot of our attention, I personally have been spending more of my efforts on the non-food crop/ornamentals and biopesticide programs which resulted in 532 registrations and 58 clearances, respectively, in 1999. As we proceed through the FQPA process, it is clear that the concern has shifted away from food residue issues to aggregate risk considerations, especially worker/residential exposures and ground water issues. Many of the products used in the ornamental industry also have food uses, especially on minor crops. The exposure models for use of the products in greenhouse situations for workers and to homeowners in residential situations (i.e. lawns, landscape, etc.) could place some currently used products in jeopardy. The IR-4 program strategy to focus on safer, Reduced Risk chemistries for possible replacement products has just as much importance to the ornamental industry as it does to the food crop industry. The work Ray Frank does on behalf of this important program is critical and is recognized by the industry. Our Biopesticide Program has also evolved over the years from only providing support for biopesticide registrants to including competitive funding for land grant university and USDA research programs. The past few years, we have evolved from funding a few Early Stage Projects (usually

laboratory level, greenhouse and initial field testing) to funding both Early Stage and Advanced Stage (products near commercialization) projects. This year, two-thirds of our over \$300,000 in funding will support 33 Advanced Stage Projects as noted in Bill Biehn's article on page 10. We are convinced that the new biopesticides, especially the biofungicides, IR-4 is funding can compete effectively as far as efficacy with traditional crop protection chemicals and can effectively be used in IPM programs for resistance management as well as by organic growers.

From a recognition perspective, it is a pleasure to recognize the 25 years of contributions to the program by my predecessor, Dick Guest, who was inducted into the IR-4 Hall of Fame at our Annual Meeting last fall. The article by Paul Schwartz, longtime PMC member, on page 14 provides the basis for this recognition. Also on page 14, it is an honor to recognize Bob Hollingworth who was selected a "Fellow" in AAAS.

Our program is off to a strong start in 2000 and we appreciate the involvement by all of our partners and stakeholders who make it a success story of which is a personal pleasure for me to be a part.

Article by Bob Holm

IR-4 HEADQUARTERS PRESENTATIONS

Bob Holm - "New Perspectives for the Future of the IR-4 Program" presented to the IR-4 Western Region Team on 1/18, Mint Industry Research Council on 1/19, Hop Commission on 1/20, Idaho Minor Crop Alliance on 1/21, Idaho Food Quality Assurance Institute on 1/21, Congressional staff briefing on 2/2, ACPA Science and Regulatory Oversight Council on 2/16, IR-4 Southern Region Team on 3/1, Florida FQPA Workshop on 3/2, and the Northeast Agricultural Experiment Station Research Directors on 3/7.

Coming in the Next Newsletter

- Crop Production Guides for Minor Crops
- Ketones as Pheromones
- CLC News Brief
- ANLA Article (American Nursery and Landscape Association) on Non-Food Use Pesticides
- New Crop Definitions