
IR-4 National Outreach Specialist Report

Outreach Report, Winter 2000

A survey of the effectiveness of IR-4 outreach activities was taken at the IR-4 National Meeting held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in October. There were 59 responses to questions about the tools used for outreach: PowerPoint slide sets, brochure, News Briefs, State Report Cards, IR-4 website, and the IR-4 Newsletter. The results were as follows. Use of the PowerPoint slide sets was low (21%), but two-thirds of respondents were not aware of the web site location where they can be found and downloaded. Brochure use was 32%. The News Briefs are widely read (73%) and passed on by half and published in part by a third of the respondents. State Report Cards are passed on by 41% and web-accessed by 36% of respondents. The IR-4 website is accessed often by 27% and seldom by 58%, but the vast majority (84%) who use it were pleased with the quality and quantity of information found there. The IR-4 Newsletter is received by 88% of respondents and read in total (44%) or in part (52%) by nearly everyone. 21% access the Newsletter on the web site. Ranked number 1 for future outreach projects were Fact Sheets, with slide sets on specific pest control products and a color brochure tied for second.

Many thanks to the thirty four states and one territory who responded to the request for regional crop updates for

State Report Cards. This was the first comprehensive effort to identify all of the minor crops grown in each state. Many states were painstaking in the update and expansion of their crop lists, and all responses were returned within four weeks. We ended up with a total listing of over 250 minor crops. Cheryl Ferrazoli, at IR-4 Headquarters, will now format all the new information into the 2001 version of the IR-4 State Report Cards due to be ready in February of 2001.

Plans are in the works to create hot links from the national IR-4 website to the many states who have state IR-4 websites. We appreciated the exposure the state links have given to the national IR-4 program and hope by reversing the process that even more people will become aware of the fine state IR-4 and pesticide education programs that exist.

Upcoming events include: IR-4 poster at the National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Expo in Tampa, Florida in March; work on IR-4 Fact Sheets on a variety of IR-4 topics such as Section 18's, Good Laboratory Practices, value of fruits and vegetables to a healthy diet, etc.; and updating the IR-4 slide sets as well as creating new sets detailing the specific pest control products that IR-4 has worked on.

Article by Sandy Perry

EPA Proposes Changes to the Experimental Use Permit (EUP) Program

EPA's Experimental Use Permit (EUP) program has been less active since the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) passed in 1996. The FQPA requires nearly the same safety determination review time for a new chemical EUP as for a new chemical registration. Companies are reluctant to give up one of their registration priorities for an EUP. Also, the EPA Registration Division doesn't have the resources to review EUPs without deviating from other scheduled priorities such as new registrations, IR-4 projects, reregistrations, etc. As a result, food use EUPs have gone from 20 per year pre-FQPA to just three per year post-FQPA.

EPA has recognized the impact that the reduction in EUPs has had on growers. Grower and grower representatives have expressed concerns over their lack of knowledge and experience using new pesticide products being registered as alternatives for products they have used for years. Many of the new compounds are more specific, with targeted modes of action that must be evaluated in relation to differing production practices.

EPA is addressing the concerns by developing a pilot program to expedite EUP reviews for certain registered pesticides with food uses. The registrant would not have to use a registration priority for an EUP as long as the chemical fits the following criteria:

- Must have been reviewed by EPA since 10/98
- Must have current registered food uses and application methods

- Use rates should be similar to rates used on other crops
- There must be ample room in the risk cup both before and after the proposed use
- Acreage limitations must be less than 2000 acres for major crops and less than 100 acres for minor crops.

Most residential uses will not be eligible, there will be a 100-acre limit per watershed, and there will be restrictions in areas where endangered species are present. The EUP will be limited to one year with opportunity to renew in one year increments.

For the pilot program, EPA will limit the active ingredients to methyl bromide replacements, reduced-risk chemicals and organophosphate alternatives with registered food uses. Products that may meet the criteria include: 1) Fungicides and PGR's - Azoxystrobin, Ecolyst, Fenhexamide, Prohexadione Calcium and Trifloxystrobin; 2) Herbicides - Carfentrazone, Diflufenzopyr, Flucarbazone-sodium, glyphosate and halosulfuron and 3) Insecticides and IGR's - buprofezin, indoxacarb, methoxyfenozide, pymetrozine, pyriproxyfen, spinosad and tebufenozide. The vast majority of these products have been or are currently being researched by IR-4. More IR-4 projects slated for food use registrations in the next 12-18 months will also meet the criteria.

EPA will soon be seeking public comment on the EUP pilot proposal and implementation is expected in 2001.

Article by Sandy Perry