EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group Meeting 2001.1

The most recent of a series of meetings between the IR-4 Headquarters staff and key scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), intended to produce a more efficient system of IR-4 data submission and EPA review, was held on January 30, 2001, in Arlington, Virginia. The first of four meetings for calendar year 2001. Participants from the EPA included Hoyt Jamerson, Sidney Jackson, Shaja Brothers, Jeff Herndon, Rick Loranger, and Donna Davis. Additional participants included Neal Thompson (IR-4 Administrative Adviser, Southern Region), Doug Rothwell and Wendy Sexsmith (by telephone from Health Canada), and by telephone from California Dept. of Pesticide Regulations—Tom Leffingwell and Roberta Firoved.

Bob Holm discussed the personnel exchange in effect between EPA and IR-4. Sidney Jackson had spent several days in the fall at IR-4 Headquarters (and had positive comments regarding his visit), and Dan Kunkel was finishing the first of several week-long visits to EPA. Dan discussed electronic data submission and the development of new data tables for petitions. Donna Davis described the petition review process in EPA's Health Effects Division.

Keith Dorschner presented a request to EPA for an all-RAC tolerance at the Limit of Quantitation for the use of spinosad in fruit fly bait formulations. Jeff Herndon responded that residue data will be needed to establish a tolerance. Keith then amended his request to ask for a time-limited tolerance and a conditional registration. This will be considered by EPA.

Fred Salzman proposed that separate field trial requirements be established for perennial vs. annual strawberries. Dan Kunkel and Dave Thompson proposed that in non-detectable residue situations, the development of 2X rate residue data be used to reduce the number of trials required by 50%. Jeff Herndon suggested that 5X rate data may be more acceptable.

Michael Braverman discussed the proposed use of sulfluramid for leafcutter ant control in Texas citrus crops, and requested that it be considered a non-food use. This request will not be considered until other sulfluramid issues are resolved.

Bernie Schneider discussed zero exposure consumption tables and the update to Table 1 (residue data requirements for each crop, including processed commodities).

In the afternoon, Dan Kunkel and Hoyt Jamerson provided an update to the FY 2001 EPA/IR-4 Workplan. Tom Leffingwell of Cal-DPR discussed the status of his department's review of petitions in the work-sharing arrangement that they have with EPA. Hoyt Jamerson discussed a Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and PMRA (Canada) which states that the respective environmental agencies will recognize each other's GLP data.

On January 31, the IR-4 and EPA participants in this meeting, with additional personnel from EPA and USDA, visited the Village Farms facility in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Village Farms is a producer of greenhouse-grown tomatoes. The Fredericksburg facility includes about 37 acres of growing space. Information about the production and pest management of this crop (which differs considerably from field-grown tomatoes) was presented by Mike Bledsoe, Bob Hoffman, and Tammy Ingersoll of Village Farms, as well as by Ron Delissen of Koppert Biological Systems, a supplier of biological control agents.

Article by Ken Samoil

"Beyond the Battlefield" Cultural Practices Field Tour

As this newsletter goes to press, plans are being finalized for the June 2001 version of the EPA/IR-4/USDA Cultural Practices Field Bus Tour, which will take place on Wednesday June 20, the day following the quarterly EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group meeting in Washington, D.C. The tour is planned to begin and end at the Shady Grove stop of the D.C. Metro red line, and will take tour participants beyond the historic Civil War battlefields of Gettysburg into Franklin and northern Adams Counties in Pennsylvania, with a final stop in Frederick County, Maryland. Along the way we will be visiting a wide variety of agricultural enterprises which will provide many educational opportunities for all. Tour stops will include: 1) upland watercress production and pest management needs; 2) Penn State tree fruit research and extension activities, discussion of pesticide issues from the land-grant institution perspective, and a catered lunch; 3) a pome and stone fruit farm and market, with an airblast orchard sprayer demonstration and discussion of pest control and pesticide issues from the grower perspective; 4) a fruit processing plant guided tour, including a state-of-the-art controlled atmosphere (CO_2) fruit storage facility, and discussion of pesticide issues from the processors' point of view; 5) a former peach-growing fruit farm which has been devastated by the scourge of the plum pox virus identified there in the fall of 1999; and 6) a pick-your-own small fruit, tree fruit and vegetable production farm and market, with a ground sprayer demonstration and a little time to "pick-our-own" produce. The tour day will be a long one, but it is expected to provide all participants with an enjoyable and educationally rewarding experience, just a short bus ride outside D.C. and "beyond the battlefield!"

Article by Van Starner