
Washington, DC Report

EPA NEWS

Christie Whitman is the New EPA Administrator

Christie Whitman was sworn in as EPA Administrator on January 31, 2001. Prior to that, Whitman served as the 50th Governor of New Jersey. In testimony before the U.S. Senate on January 17, Whitman said she believed environmental and economic goals go hand in hand and that she would continue her record of working to forge strong partnerships among citizens, government and business to produce measurable environmental results of cleaner air, water and land. More information is available on Christie Whitman at <http://www.epa.gov/adminweb/about.htm>

As governor of New Jersey, Whitman developed a strong environmental record, providing cleaner air, water and land than when she was first elected in November 1993. Under her environmental leadership, New Jersey's air became significantly cleaner. The number of days New Jersey violated the federal one-hour air quality standard for ground level ozone dropped from 45 in 1988 to four in 2000. The state is on target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels.

New Jersey's waterways, coasts and ocean waters also became significantly cleaner. Beach closings reached a record low and the state earned recognition by the Natural Resources Defense Council for instituting the most comprehensive beach monitoring system in the nation. The Governor won voter approval for a plan to break a longstanding impasse over dredging the state's ports that is both environmentally acceptable and economical. She established a new watershed management program. New Jersey now leads the nation in opening shellfish beds for harvesting. As a preservationist, Governor Whitman won voter approval for the state's first stable funding source to preserve one million more acres of open space and farmland by the year 2011. Nearly as much land (over 250,000 acres) was preserved during her administration as in the previous three decades of the state's land preservation program. She is an advocate for "smart growth" and in New Jersey she encouraged new growth in cities and other areas where roads, sewers and schools are already in place. She encouraged redevelopment of cities through programs to streamline cleanups of abandoned industrial "brownfield" sites.

Prior to becoming governor, Whitman headed the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the Somerset County Board of Freeholders. She grew up in Hunterdon County, N.J. and earned a bachelor's degree in government from Wheaton College in Massachusetts in 1968. She is married to John R. Whitman, Vietnam Veteran, and has two children.

Office of Pesticide Programs

Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC). The PPDC seems to be fairly inactive except for occasional sessions of two of its workgroups: the Rodenticide Stakeholder Workgroup and the Inert Disclosure Stakeholder Workgroup. As mentioned below, PPDC used to hold public sessions two or three times a year and served as a forum for many pesticide related topics. Included below is background information on PPDC. More information may be found at <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/ppdc>

Scientific Advisory Panel

Meetings:

March 13 - 16, 2001: *A Case Study: Advancing Ecological Risk Assessment Methods in the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs.*

March 28, 2001 *Evaluation of the HRI LifeLine™ - System Model.* This is one of the exposure assessment models being evaluated by the Agency

Continued on Page 25

Washington, DC Report

Continued from Page 24

Reports

December 18, 2000

Final Report: FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel Assessment of Human Carcinogenic Potential of Malathion. The report deals with the set of scientific issues being considered by the EPA regarding a consultation on the EPA Health Effect Division's proposed classification of the human carcinogenic potential of malathion.

December 5, 2000

Press Release: EPA has made public a report from its Scientific Advisory Panel on the potential allergenicity of StarLink® corn. EPA asked the expert panel to provide an independent scientific assessment on the potential allergenicity, sensitization and possible exposure to StarLink® corn. StarLink® presently is not licensed for use in food consumed by humans. Aventis, the manufacturer, has asked for a time-limited exemption to allow StarLink corn in food products, which EPA is currently reviewing.

Final Report: The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) has completed its review of the set of scientific issues being considered by the Agency pertaining to an assessment of scientific information concerning StarLink® corn.

Candidates for Re-registration Decisions in FY2001

Through the re-registration and tolerance reassessment programs, EPA plans to make risk management decisions from the following list of candidate pesticides during FY 2001. These decisions may take the form of REDs, IREDs, or TREDs. The dynamic nature of the review process may result in identification of the need for additional data or other issues may surface that result in changed priorities during the year. Therefore, the lists presented below may change.

Taken from <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/candidates.htm>

REDs (Reregistration Eligibility Decisions)

When EPA completes the review and risk management decision for a pesticide that is subject to re-registration (that is, one initially registered before November 1984), the Agency generally issues a re-registration eligibility decision or RED document. The RED summarizes the risk assessment conclusions and outlines any risk reduction measures necessary for the pesticide to continue to be registered in the U.S. :

Cacodylic Acid	Molinate
Endosulfan	Propargite
Ethion	Thiabendazole
Methanearsonic Acid	Thiram

IREDs (Interim Re-registration Eligibility Decisions)

EPA issues an IRED for a pesticide that is undergoing reregistration, requires a reregistration eligibility decision, and also needs a cumulative assessment under FQPA. The IRED, issued after the completion of the individual chemical's aggregate risk assessment, may include taking risk reduction measures, for example, reducing risks to workers or eliminating uses that

Continued on Page 26

Washington, DC Report

Continued from Page 25

the registrant no longer wishes to maintain, to gain the benefits of these changes before the final RED can be issued after the cumulative assessment:

Carbamates	Ethoprop
Formetanate HC1	Fenamiphos
Organophosphates	Malathion
Acephate	Methamidophos
Azinphos-Methyl	Methidathion
Chlorpyrifos	Methyl Parathion
DDVP (Dichlorvos)	Naled
Diazinon	Oxydemeton-methyl
Dicrotophos	Phosmet
Dimethoate	Pirimiphos-methyl
Disulfoton	Terbufos

TREDS (Reports on FQPA Tolerance Reassessment Progress and Interim Risk Management Decisions)

EPA issues a TRED for a pesticide that requires tolerance reassessment decisions, but is not subject to reregistration at present because: it was initially registered after Nov. 1, 1984, the date that triggered the reregistration program; EPA completed a RED for the pesticide before passage of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA); or the pesticide is not registered for use in the U.S. but tolerances are established that allow crops treated with the pesticide to be imported from other countries. Like IREDs, some TREDS do not become final until EPA completes a cumulative assessment and risk management decision addressing all the pesticides in the cumulative group.

Organophosphates	Other Pesticides
Chlorpyrifos-methyl	Butylate
Phosalone	Citric Acid
Tetrachlorvinphos	Limonene
Trichlorfon	Sodium Diacetate
	Sodium Hypochlorite
	Sulfur
	Tridiphane

On March 8, 2000 the “200 REDs Celebration for OPP” was held. Awards were given, speeches made and original musical compositions were performed to mark this momentous occasion.

USDA NEWS

Ann M. Veneman Sworn in as 27th Secretary of Agriculture. Ann Veneman was confirmed by the Senate and later sworn in as the 27th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on January 20, 2001. In her Senate confirmation hearing, she repeated President Bush’s belief that, “The spirit of the American farmer is emblematic of the spirit of America, signifying the values of hard work, faith and entrepreneurship.” The new Secretary has pledged to work to foster an atmosphere of teamwork, innovation, mutual respect and common sense within the Department and focus our delivery systems on quality service to our customers.” From 1991 to 1993, Veneman served as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As the second-ranking person at USDA, she directed and oversaw the activities and policies of the USDA and its 42 agencies, with a budget of more than \$60 billion and a workforce of 111,000 employees. To date, Veneman is the highest-ranking woman to ever serve at USDA. From 1989 to 1991, Veneman served as Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture for International Affairs and Commodity Programs. In this assignment, she managed international issues including trade policy, trade negotiations, and food aid. Veneman joined the USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service in 1986 and served as Associate Administrator until 1989. She was actively involved in the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations, NAFTA and the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement.

Continued on Page 27

Washington, DC Report

Continued from Page 26

Dale Moore Named Chief of Staff to Ann Veneman. Before joining USDA, from February 1997 until his appointment in February 2001, Moore served as the executive director for legislative affairs at the Washington, DC - based National Cattleman's Beef Association. He was the legislative director of the Committee on Agriculture at the US House of Representatives from 1995-1996, where he worked on the formulation and passage of the 1996 Farm Bill. From 1993-1994, he worked as the Republican legislative coordinator for the House Agricultural Committee. Moore served as the minority counsel for the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research and Foreign Agriculture from 1991-1993. From 1985 to 1991, he was the agricultural legislative assistant for [then] U.S. Rep. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), who is now a U.S. Senator from Kansas. Moore is a native of Copeland, Kansas, where he was raised on a livestock, hay and grain farm. Moore holds a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science/biology.

CSREES

New CSREES Administrator Named. Former Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman named Colien Hefferan as the new CSREES administrator effective October 7, 2000. She replaces Dr. Charles Laughlin, who retired for personal health reasons. Dr. Hefferan joined USDA in 1979 as an economist with the Family Economics Research Group, Agricultural Research Service. She transferred to the Cooperative State Research Service in 1988, where she served as Deputy Administrator for Natural Resources, Food and Social Sciences. With the establishment of CSREES, Hefferan was named the Deputy Administrator for Competitive Research, Grants, and Award Management, and has also served as the Acting Administrator of CSREES.

Funding Opportunities:

Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS). Final details regarding Program Areas are available. The RFP for FY 2001 was published on February 24. The web address is <http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/programs/IFAFS/IFAFS-2001.htm>

Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program. Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a competitive grants program to provide funding for integrated, multifunctional agricultural research, extension, and education activities. Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this program, the Secretary may award grants to colleges and universities. The Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program has three program areas: Food Safety, Pest Management, and Water Quality. Funding is announced through a separate Request for Proposals (RFP) for each program. The RFP's were published on March 13 with a closing date for all proposals of May 14, 2001. <http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/integrated.htm>

Other News/Personnel

Invasive Species Update. Invasive species is one of CSREES' top priorities. Dr. John Obrycki recently completed his one year term as CSREES' invasive species coordinator and has returned to "normal" life at Iowa State University. John will continue his participation in CSREES' invasive species efforts on a shared faculty appointment. His primary focus will be invasive species in field crops. The CSREES invasive species team has been strengthened by the arrival of two new staff members. Dr. Tom Bewick will handle invasive species efforts related to horticultural crops and ornamentals; Dr. Herb Bolton will handle invasive species efforts related to public health and vector management.

Biotechnology Update. The USDA Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS) recently awarded \$32 million for 24 grants in genomics and biotechnology. These included five grants in plant genomics, four grants in animal genomics, four grants in microbial genomics, two grants in bioinformatics, five grants in biotechnology/health effects, and four grants in biotechnology/social and economic effects. Details are available on the IFAFS website at <http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/programs/IFAFS/ifafsawards.htm>.

Continued on Page 28

Washington, DC Report

Continued from Page 27

GAO Study of USDA IPM Program Underway. GAO is conducting a study of the USDA Integrated Pest Management Program. The study involves programs supported by CSREES, other USDA agencies, and the Environmental Protection Agency. GAO is evaluating the effectiveness of federal IPM efforts, including progress towards President Clinton's goal to implement IPM strategies on 75 percent of U.S. cropland by the year 2000.

Multistate Research Manual Updated. The manual for multistate research projects has been updated. "Guidelines for Multistate Research Activities" is available at www.msstate.edu/org/saaesd/.

New Horticulturist Arrives. DR. THOMAS BEWICK joined the staff as National Program Leader for Horticulture on August 28th. His previous positions included Extension Professor and Director for the Cranberry Experiment Station at the University of Massachusetts and Associate Professor at the University of Florida. Dr. Bewick received his B.S. degree in Olericulture from the University of California, and his PhD from the University of Wisconsin. Tom will cover methyl bromide & invasive species issues related to horticultural crops and ornamental production.

Liaison to the U.S. Army Environmental Center Joins Staff. DR. HERB BOLTON, Rutgers University graduate, joined PAS on September 15 to help link pest management efforts between the Army, USDA, and the land-grant university system. The Department of Defense has a strong pest management interest and programs that address a myriad of pest management and environmental challenges on the 12 million acres of DOD land located in urban, suburban, and rural settings. Herb will handle public health and vector management issues as a member of the CSREES invasive species team.

Applied Environmental Toxicologist Hired. DR. MONTE JOHNSON became CSREES' National Program Leader for Applied Environmental Toxicology in early January 2001. He will provide national leadership for state and federal activities aimed at developing a greater understanding of the toxicological consequences of human exposure to pesticides and the effects of pesticide residues and other contaminants in foods and the environment. He will also provide administrative oversight and national leadership for the Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) program. Monte was formerly an Extension entomologist at the University of Kentucky.

Plant Geneticist/Plant Genomics Program Leader Hired. DR. ANN MARIE THRO has been selected as the National Program Leader for plant genetics/genomics. She will provide leadership for state and federal activities in this area. Ann is coming to CSREES from the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and began February 12.

Dr. Robin Huettel left CSREES to become the Executive Associate Director for the Agriculture Experiment Station at Auburn University starting January 2001.

Positions being filled at CSREES:

PLANT PATHOLOGY-CSREES is currently screening candidates to refill the plant pathology National Program Leader position. The closing date for applicants was January 19.

BIOBASED PEST MANAGEMENT-CSREES is reviewing applicants for this National Program Leader. The closing date for applicants was January 8.

Continued on Page 29

Washington, DC Report

Continued from Page 28

CSREES Plant Systems Staff. For more information about programs consult the website at www.reeusda.gov/pas/, or contact the appropriate individual listed below:

Name	Discipline	Programs/Issues	Telephone (202)	E-mail ...@reeusda.gov
Bewick, Tom	Horticulture	methyl bromide; invasive species (hort./ornament.)	401-3356	tbewick
Bolton, Herb	Entomology	invasive species (health /vector management)	401-4201	hbolton
Fitzner, Mike	Plant breeding	IPM; RAMP	401-4939	mfitzner
Gresham, Anita	Secretary for Kopp		401-4603	agresham
Hill, Mary	Secretary for Bewick, Bolton & Meyer		401-1794	mhill
Vacant	Plant pathology			
Jones, Dan	Biochemistry & molecular biology	Biotechnology	401-6854	ddjones
Jones, Preston	Agronomy	Precision agriculture	401-1990	jpjones
Johnson, Monte	Entomology	PAT	401-1108	mpjohnson
Kimble-Day, Kathy	Program specialist	All	401-4420	kday
Kopp, Dennis	Extension pesticides	Pest Management Centers; PMAP	401-6437	dkopp
Vacant	Program specialist	All		
Meyer, Rick	Entomology	PMIDSS; CAR; Critical Issues	401-4891	hmeyer
Mullings, Laarina	Secretary for Fitzner & P. Jones		401-4892	lmullings
Robinson, Diann	Secretary for D. Jones & Parochetti		401-6627	drobinson
Shewan, Mary	Program specialist	All	401-6195	mshewan
Parochetti, Jim	Weed science	IR-4	401-4354	jparochetti
Vacant	Biobased pest management & applied ecology			
Thro, Ann Marie	Plant genetics/genomics	(began in February, 2001)		

Report prepared by:

Willis B. Wheeler
IR-4 Liaison, EPA/OPP

James V. Parochetti
NPL, Weed Science, USDA/CSREES