
IR-4 QUALITY ASSURANCE

23rd Update from the IR-4 Quality Assurance Unit (QAU)

The IR-4 QAU is currently in the midst of its very busy field inspection program. The QA field in-life inspection plan for 2001 targets approximately 107 field trials at 46 test sites. This permits IR-4 to monitor 20% of the IR-4 field trials during the field phase (up from 16% last year). If you have not currently received information on our targeting list, please contact your regional QA unit.

The IR-4 QAU is very busy auditing final reports which were identified for submission to the US EPA by the end of October 2001. The goal of completing our schedule of final report audits is made more challenging by our dedication to meeting targets associated with the 30 month time-line. In our daily activities, IR-4 participants can help in this process by forwarding their completed field data books to their field coordinators on time and complete. By all of us working to fulfill the roles and responsibilities we have outlined for ourselves (as we did at the 2001 San Antonio meeting) we can accomplish our goals on time and in an efficient manner, in order to complete our primary mission, the registration of pest control products for the American Grower.

In addition to our scheduled submission and inspection plans, the last three months have brought on an additional challenge. The EPA found a way to review the oxyfluorfen on strawberry reports (annuals and perennials) if we could submit the final reports to them ASAP. By working together, the 2000 field research for the annual strawberry study was completed in May 2001 and the field data book expedited to the Study Director at HQ. The laboratory analysis was completed at UC Davis the same month and the laboratory report written and audited (UC Davis Laboratory and QA personnel). The final report was written, audited and submitted to the EPA in mid June. These two final reports were not originally scheduled to be submitted or reviewed by the EPA, but when the opportunity arose, field researchers, laboratory personnel, IR-4 QA and Study Directors rose to the challenge. A special thanks to Jim McFarland and Martin Beran of UC Davis Western Region QA for their diligence and hard work in completing these projects.

Article by Tammy White
