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## Ontario, Canada's New Minor Use Web Site is Launched Along with a Summer of Activities

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) announces a new website devoted to minor uses (<http://www.gov.on.ca/omafra/english/crops/minoruse/>). Although it is based in Ontario, Canada, the site represents the majority of Canadian minor use projects and priorities. The site contains an introduction to the program and information on areas of focus, the process, funding, prioritization and collaboration.

OMAF hosted the first summer national gathering of minor use coordinators in Guelph, Ontario, July 8-10, 2002. Representatives from all provinces, the federal departments of agriculture and Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) gathered to discuss new initiatives and priority setting processes for minor uses. The Canadian

National Minor Use Priority List will be put together in preparation for the September 2002 IR-4/USDA Food Use Workshop in Orlando, Florida.

On 17-19 June 2002, OMAF, local grower associations and provincial organizations organized a summer tour for PMRA review staff to visit the diverse agriculture of southwestern Ontario. Greenhouse vegetables, greenhouse flowers, fruit crops and processing vegetable crops were highlighted. Marija Arsenovic represented IR-4 headquarters on the tour. Her input was greatly appreciated.

Please visit the new website to learn more about Canada's activities in support of specialty crop producers.

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## IR-4 Input to Pest Management Strategic Plan Helps Popcorn Growers

Since popcorn is part of the major crop "corn", it is often forgotten as an important specialty crop (Indiana, Nebraska, Illinois and Ohio are major popcorn growing states)\*. If the registrant includes popcorn on the label, there should be no pest control problems for popcorn growers. However, in spite of growers' needs, popcorn is sometimes excluded from the label due to various reasons such as lack of performance or phytotoxicity data for cultural and varietal differences. With funding from the USDA North Central Region (NCR) Pest Management Center, an NCR Popcorn Pest Management Strategic Plan (PMSP) meeting was held in Chicago, March 11-12, 2002. Growers and the popcorn companies expressed their serious concern about the labeling situation. One of the most critically needed herbicides, Syngenta's Callisto® (mesotrione), is registered for field corn, but not for popcorn. If tolerances are established using surrogate data from field corn, relatively simple label amendments can solve the problem. Attendees, including the Popcorn Institute, were advised to have IR-4 work with EPA and the registrant. Since practically all

popcorn production in the U.S. is concentrated in EPA Crop Production Regions\* V (95%) and VII (5%), all required performance data to satisfy the registrant are obtainable from the North Central Region. As Marija Arsenovic, IR-4 HQ, reported at the EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group meeting on June 11, 2002, a petition using field corn as surrogate data was submitted to EPA and once approved, the registrant will amend the label using existing safety data for popcorn. Thus, popcorn growers will have a needed pest control tool in the very near future.

This will be another success story of cooperation between USDA Regions, EPA and IR-4 in helping minor crop growers with the Pest Management Strategic Plan process.

\* Popcorn acreage and a map of the U.S. Crop Production Regions are found on pages 96 and 325, respectively of *Food and Feed Crops of the United States, Second Edition* by G.M. Markle, J.J. Baron, and B.A. Schneider.

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