

**Editor's Note: IR-4 Highlights by the Executive Director is an outreach feature of the Newsletter, focused primarily on articles in this issue.**

## IR-4 Highlights

Throughout the IR-4 Project's 39-year history, the Headquarters staff has grown considerably with little or no turnover other than planned retirements. Dr. Charles Compton, the first National Director, was joined from the US Army by Professor George Markle after one year to form the nucleus of IR-4's Headquarters staff, which grew slowly in the 1970's to about 10 and during the 1980's to about 15. The past decade has seen our team grow to 25 with the addition of Tammy White and her Quality Assurance Unit, the expansion of our Registration Team under Dan Kunkel and addition of other support/administration staff under Pat Sarica. The looming FY 2002 and 2003 budget deficits in New Jersey have prompted the Governor and the legislature to approve an early retirement program that will affect George, Pat and one other staff member (Judy Streisand). In addition, another support team member, Josh Brashier, has decided to pursue other career interests.

Within a period of a month, the Headquarters Senior Management Team (Jerry Baron, Dan Kunkel, George, Pat, Tammy and myself) were faced with replacing two of our key members plus two more valuable staffers. We looked at this challenge as an opportunity to develop some additional career development opportunities for existing staff while hiring new staff members with new talents. Some of the changes and people impacted by them are noted below:

- **Jerry Baron** will assume Pat's Administrative Support responsibilities in addition to his current Technical Support role. Jerry has spent the last 18 months as Assistant to the Dean of Cook College at Rutgers University at a 75% time commitment for the first 12 months and 25% recently. As of June 1st, Jerry returned full time to IR-4 to accept the challenge of hiring a Computer Specialist, Secretary and Office Coordinator.
- **George Markle** has also accepted the retirement package but has agreed to extend his retirement date until 2003 in order to serve as Co-chair for the Crop Grouping Symposium on October 7th and 8th in Arlington, VA prior to our Annual Meeting and the subsequent Symposium Proceedings publication. George will work with Jerry to transfer his Newsletter Editor, Annual Report Editor, CRIS Report Editor, Directory Co-editor, primary HQ contact with the National Outreach Specialist for news articles and presentations, IR-4 Historian, Study Director, Bilog Editor,

Sponsor, Facte-Mail Co-editor, Dr. C.C. Compton Entomological Fund member, IR-4 Recording Secretary, Co-chair for EPA/IR-4/USDA/CDPR/PMRA Technical Working Group (TWG), Faculty Advisor for TWG tours, *Federal Register* reviewer, NJ County Agent Collaborator, NJAES Pesticide Advisory Committee member, Management Team and other important responsibilities to other staff members. By retiring in 2003, George will be able to celebrate IR-4's 40th anniversary as well as his 39th year as a dedicated and loyal employee.

- **Pat Sarica** has retired and spent her last "official" day at the office on May 28th due to the retirement plan requirement to use accumulated vacation days. However, Pat has agreed to return during the upcoming months a few days per week to help us through this transition period and train new staff members. We were able to hold a surprise (it really was) party for her on May 17th which was attended by about 60 friends and family including her two grown children and grandchildren. Former Executive Director Dick Guest and his wife Jane, and Project Management Committee member Paul Schwartz and his wife Sandy were able to attend. We will certainly miss Pat's 28 years of faithful service and expertise in meeting arrangements, budgeting, grant administration, and acting as general confidante to me and former Executive Directors. Fortunately, she has agreed to manage the arrangements for the Crop Grouping Symposium and Annual Meeting, so many of you will have a chance to wish her well, personally, in her retirement years.
- **Judy Streisand** retired on May 23rd as required by her accumulated vacation days. Judy had been a Secretary at Headquarters for 14 years and will be remembered for her dedication as a valued team member. The Headquarters Team recognized Judy at a retirement luncheon held on June 18th.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Judy the best in her immediate retirement, Pat in her almost complete retirement with part-time IR-4 involvement and George the best as he prepares for retirement in the upcoming year. I hope you can be patient with the Headquarters staff as we go through this challenging transition period. However, if you have any concerns about the service we provide to our many customers and stakeholders, please feel free to contact Jerry or me directly for help.

On the partnership front, Jerry, Dan and I along with our Senior Coordinators (Keith Dorschner/Insecticides, Fred Salzman/Herbicides and Dave Thompson/Fungicides) have spent a considerable amount of time visiting with our crop protection industry partners to review the status of ongoing projects as well as to look for minor crop opportunities with

Continued on Page 3

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## IR-4 Highlights

Continued from Page 2

their new chemistries and biologicals. During the April through June period, we met with Uniroyal (4/22), DuPont (4/17 and 6/25), Makhteshim Agan (4/23), Valent (4/25), BASF (4/30 and 6/6), KHH BioSci (4/29), Cerexagri (5/16), Nichino America (5/30), Dow AgroSciences (6/3 and 4), FMC (6/14) and Syngenta (6/19 and 20). Jerry, Dan and I took the opportunity during these visits to update the company management and technical staff about the benefits of working with IR-4 and our other partnership initiatives, especially with the EPA and California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) in the U.S. as well as Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) as part of our NAFTA strategy coordinated by Dan.

Our EPA partnership continues to be expanded with the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD). We held our second BPPD/IR-4 Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting on June 10th to discuss the items proposed at the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Meeting in May to increase the utilization of biopesticides in U.S. agriculture. Michael Braverman, Biopesticide Coordinator, also related his sabbatical experiences with BPPD this year to learn more about biopesticide regulatory procedures (please see Michael's article on page 7 for more details). We also held our 3rd EPA/IR-4 TWG Meeting in 2002 on June 11th and the 15th of the series starting in early 1999. This was a very productive meeting with our EPA, DPR and PMRA partners to continue to discuss new approaches to registering minor crop protection tools. Additional details can be

found in Ken Samoil's article on page 15. The meeting was followed by the 4th IR-4 sponsored tour ("Beyond the Chesapeake") for EPA and USDA staff to expose them to some minor crop agriculture in Delaware and Maryland. Ken also goes into greater depth about this tour in his article on page 15. In previous years tours, we have visited minor crop growing operations and packing plants in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey as well as Maryland. For 2003, we are planning tours to production Ornamentals sites in Maryland, and tree fruit production in Virginia/Maryland/West Virginia (proposed name "Beyond the Appalachian Trail").

This summer promises to be a busy one for IR-4 staff as we participate in numerous minor crop tours (I will be attending, along with Michael and Keith, the California Minor Crop Tour on July 23rd to 25th), additional crop protection industry company meetings and preparing for the Food Use Workshop being held in Orlando, FL from September 17th to 19th. We look forward to these summer tours and meetings as a way to learn more about the pest control needs of our growers and commodity groups and how we may meet their needs with the latest chemical and biological products. Thanks to our crop protection industry partners for providing their latest technologies for our use.

I hope to be seeing many of you in the upcoming months and wish all of our Newsletter readers a productive summer.

Article by Bob Holm

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### 2002 Census of Agriculture

This is the year for the new Census of Agriculture (every 5 years). This year they are conducting a Farm Identification Survey, which is currently underway, to identify who are or are not farmers so they can send the actual Census survey November/December 2002. Please encourage folks to fill these out as accurately as possible. This is an important survey that can directly affect us

Article by Zane Helsel  
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