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## IR-4 QUALITY ASSURANCE

**QA Focus** -(27th in a series of helpful GLP updates and other important information)

### Update from the IR-4 Quality Assurance (QA) Committee

The IR-4 QA SOP 8.5 has been updated to permit a more uniform and efficient mechanism for dispersing field data book audit reports and getting the responses to the audits back to the appropriate parties. The primary change to this QA SOP is a request that the Field Research Director forward their responses and any corrected pages to IR-4 HQ QA and not the Study Director. Once received at HQ QA, the responses will be attached to the original QA audit report from the field data book and sent to the Study Director and Testing Facility Management. The IR-4 QA Committee hopes this new system will alleviate any previous problems we have had with keeping up-to-date records of response receipt by having those responses logged into the QA routing system upon arrival at HQ.

The IR-4 QA program has been very busy this year. The IR-4 field program is in full swing and Regional QA personnel are busy scheduling and conducting in-life inspections at IR-4 cooperating sites. On top of this order of business, the QA has audited 202 field data books from 2001 (42 currently in QA, another 227 yet to be submitted to QA) and has finished over 46 final report audits and numerous laboratory inspections. QA currently has 17 final reports in for primary auditing, having received 14 of those in the last 5

weeks. We thank the IR-4 QA Unit, field study personnel and study monitoring personnel for their assistance and persistence in working so diligently on completion of these GLP required audits and inspections.

The IR-4 program has been involved with three EPA inspections in 2002. To date, no significant GLP infractions were reported by the EPA. The EPA compliance inspections for 2002 have been conducted at two field research test sites and one analytical laboratory.

Four members of the IR-4 QA Unit participated in the Foliar Dislodgeable Residue training coordinated by Dr. Paul Schwartz, Dr. David Thompson and Emy Pfeil. Two IR-4 Study Directors, three IR-4 USDA/ARS cooperating field scientists and representatives from each of the three USDA/ARS analytical laboratories were in attendance to discuss the particulars of successfully conducting these unique studies. The participating members of the IR-4 QA Unit left the meeting very much aware of the particularities of conducting these types of studies and are very appreciative of being invited to participate in the training. A special thanks goes out to Dr. James Clark of Grayson Research and Donna Landis of LAB Services for their participation in our training program.

Article by Tammy White

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### Measurement Quiz (Test Your Knowledge)

1. 3 barleycorns = \_\_\_\_\_ inches
2. 1 hand = \_\_\_\_\_ inches
3. 8 furlongs = \_\_\_\_\_ miles
4. 1 pace = \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Answers: 1 = one inch, 2 = four inches, 3 = one mile, 4 = three feet