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## EPA Honors Dr. Jack Norton

Dr. Jack Norton, manager of IR-4's Methyl Bromide Alternatives Program (MBA), was recently presented with a CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION by the Environmental Protection Agency. The certificate reads "For extraordinary accomplishment in encouraging development and registration of effective alternatives for methyl bromide, and for creative collaboration across organizational lines". In only four years, Jack has facilitated several major IR-4 projects in strawberries, tomatoes and cut flowers that have brought together registrants with promising replacements for methyl bromide and state, federal and private researchers, for field evaluation projects. A number of products from the IR-4 Methyl Bromide Alternatives Program, including iodomethane, fosthiazate, dazomet, halosulfuron-methyl and trifloxysulfuron-sodium, have been given high priority by EPA for fast track regulatory decisions. This could potentially reduce registration time by two years or more.

Article by Sandy Perry

## IR-4/USDA Crop Grouping Symposium Accomplishes Mission (1st International Crop Grouping Symposium)

The recent Symposium, held in Arlington, VA brought together 150 interested people, including many crop and regulatory experts, as the first step in updating and revising the U.S. regulatory scheme of crop groups and sub groups. The Crop Grouping System enables residue tolerances to be established for a group of crops based on residue data for certain key crops that are representative of the group. Symposium presentations covered the importance of crop groups to the agricultural community, the regulatory com-

munity, minor crop research efficiency and international harmonization including Codex and NAFTA. Day long break out sessions addressed the expansion of the 19 current crop groups and the addition of another 13 groups. Text of the presentations and the proposed additions/changes/deletions to the current crop grouping system will be available when the Proceedings are published later this year. The information generated at the symposium will assist EPA in its next update for the regulation (40 CFR Part 180).

Article by Sandy Perry and George Markle

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## IR-4's 39th Annual Meeting

The 39th IR-4 Annual Meeting on 9-10 October 2002 in Arlington, VA was a success. The minutes will be distributed as soon as possible. The 2002 award recipients were:

### *Meritorious Service Award*

Northcentral	Richard Zollinger
Southern	Ross Leidy
Western	Ronda Hirnyck
ARS	Emy Pfeil
At-Large	Keith Dorschner



### *Special Meritorious Service Award*

Rocky Lundy



### *Hall of Fame Award*

Patricia Sarica

### *Technical Service Award*

Northcentral	Zhoujing Liu
Northcentral	Cheryl Reese
Northeast	Michele Humiston
Southern	Gail Mahnken
ARS	Eleazar Moreno
ARS	David McCommas



## Congratulations To All

Article by George Markle

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## EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group Meeting

The EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group (TWG) has convened for a series of meetings between the IR-4 Headquarters staff and key scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), intended to produce a more efficient system of IR-4 data submission and EPA review. These meetings have been held at approximately quarterly intervals, generally at the offices of one or the other organization. A TWG meeting was held on June 11, 2002, in Crystal City, Virginia. Participants included representatives of EPA, IR-4, USDA, California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR), and Canadian cooperators.

Sidney Jackson discussed the draft Standard Operating Procedure for the coordinated review of IR-4 petitions with registration information. IR-4 will need to work with the registrants to ensure that they have submitted their Notice of Filing and Section 3 registration package concurrently with, or very shortly after, the IR-4 petition submission.

Keith Dorschner brought up the problem of the EPA 5X residue rule with regard to stone fruits. In a crop group tolerance proposal, the residues on the representative crops must be within a factor of five in order for a single tolerance to be considered for all of the crops in the group. This is sometimes a problem in stone fruits, in part because of the size differential between cherries, plums, and peaches. Bernie Schneider suggested requesting two tolerances in such situations, one for the rep crop with the out-of-line residues, and the other for the crop group minus the one rep crop. Keith also discussed the problem of product labels which include rangeland grass, as an example, excluding pasture grass, even though the tolerance would cover all grasses. IR-4 will remind registrants that both rangeland and pasture grasses should be included on labels with grass uses.

Johannes Corley and Jeff Herndon discussed the status of Johannes' request that non-food use status be granted for the use of ethephon on peach after harvest to delay bloom the following year. This request was granted subsequent to this TWG meeting.

John Redden distributed a list of products that had undergone RD ARIA team risk assessments in 2002, including dimethomorph, hexythiazox, and pyridaben.

During a discussion begun by Marija Arsenovic on the use of surrogate data to support mesotrione on popcorn, Jeff Herndon stated that field corn data would be acceptable in support of this use, and that residue data from field corn sampled at the milk stage could be used to support registrations on sweet corn.

Ken Samoil requested a data reduction for uses of buprofezin on tropical fruits. He noted that a petition has been submitted for lychee and related crops, and that another study on avocado is nearing completion. Ken requested that sugar apples (and related crops) be covered by the data from lychees and avocados. Dave Thompson suggested that guavas and other edible-peeled tropical fruits also be included. Michael Braverman and Hong Chen agreed that the lychee and avocado data would be adequate to estimate residues on guava. Jeff Herndon suggested referencing the registrant's data on citrus and possibly pome fruit as well as the IR-4 data.

Fred Salzman submitted a petition to request an exemption from tolerance for imazamox on all crops.

George Markle discussed the upcoming Crop Group Symposium. Bernie Schneider talked about the preferred terminology for crop group tolerances, which will now include the crop group number to avoid confusion with pre-1995 crop group definitions.

Pete Caulkins briefly discussed the NRDC objections to certain pesticide registrations because of the lack of a 10X safety factor or data questions. He stated that EPA will continue to work on new registrations and Section 18's, but that resources will be assigned to address the objections. Hoyt Jamerson gave a status report on the EPA Workplan, and Tom Leffingwell did the same for California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation. Dan Kunkel talked about the list of 145 IR-4 petitions that is being considered for review by EPA in the draft 2003 Workplan.

Shirley Archambault of the Canadian Horticultural Council informed the group about the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada initiative to support minor uses, which will include the establishment of six field research centers for GLP trials. (Canada is already cooperating with IR-4 in residue studies.) Doug Rothwell described a new position at PMRA (Canada) for a Minor Use Advisor. Terri Stowe noted that a joint review (EPA/PMRA) of fenhexamid was completed in only seven months; additional joint reviews are likely.

Steve Schaible was introduced as the new Reduced Risk Coordinator.

Data needed for registrations on ornamental plants was discussed by Luis Suguyama, Becky Sisco, and Jerry Baron. The use of European data to support U.S. outdoor ornamental uses was considered, as was the question of data requirements for additions to existing labels.

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## EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group Meeting

Continued from Page 15

Michael Braverman discussed the TWG meeting held with BPPD on June 10th and reported on the progress of his sabbatical with this division.

As was discussed in the previous edition of the IR-4 Newsletter, on Wednesday, June 12th, representatives of IR-4, EPA, and USDA participated in the Beyond the Chesapeake agricultural field training program. A bus left Crystal City (Arlington, Virginia) at 8 a.m. and drove to Laurel, Delaware, where the group listened to Rob Collins of Ag-Air talk about aerial crop protection applications. Following his discussion of procedures, safety precautions, and the business aspects of his work, Rob impressed the group with a demonstration of an aerial application (of water) onto a corn field adjacent to the airport. The group then traveled to the

University of Maryland Lower Eastern Shore Research & Extension Center in Salisbury, where IR-4 Field Research Director, Marylee Ross, provided lunch (featuring home made crab soup) and led a tour of the field and screen house facilities. The next stop on the tour was the Wye Research & Education Center, where Dr. Mike Embrey discussed his honeybee research and touched on the impact of Varroa and Tracheal mites. Finally, the group convened at the Harris Crab House in Grasonville, Maryland, for a dinner of hard-shell crabs, steamed shrimp, barbecued chicken and ribs, corn on the cob, and pie for dessert. The weather was good and the program for the day was deemed very successful.

The 1 OCT 02 TWG meeting will be covered in the next IR-4 Newsletter

Article by Ken Samoil

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## NCFAP Updating its National Pesticide Use Database

The National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy (NCFAP) maintains the only comprehensive publicly-available database delineating the amounts of individual active ingredients by state and crop. The NCFAP database includes use estimates for 87 crops and 200 active ingredients in the 48 continental states. NCFAP has released the database for 1992 and 1997 and is in the process of updating the database to 2002. Financial support for the update is being provided by USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy. NCFAP draws its estimates from other publicly-available sources including NASS surveys, Crop Profiles, and CAL-DPR. For states and crops not covered by published surveys, NCFAP conducts a survey of Extension Service scientists for estimates of usage patterns.

NCFAP has relied on over 200 Extension scientists in developing its database. Prior to release, the database is reviewed by chemical registrants which allows NCFAP to reexamine its input data and resurvey Extension scientists if there are large discrepancies. In some cases, chemical registrants have agreed to be cited as sources of the estimates. The update for 2002 will be complete in November 2003 and will be posted on NCFAP's website [www.ncfap.org](http://www.ncfap.org) which currently contains the earlier versions of the database for 1992 and 1997.

Any questions or comments on the NCFAP project can be directed to Leonard Gianessi at 202-328-503 or [Gianessi@ncfap.org](mailto:Gianessi@ncfap.org).

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### Regional Presentations

"New Methods for the Determination of Pesticide Residues in Crops by LC/MS/MS" at the International AOAC Meeting in Los Angeles on September 24, 2002. This presentation was part of the LC/MS Enforcement Methods Symposium. Some IR-4 projects were presented which were converted from GC or LC/UV to LC/MS/MS.

Presentation by Dr. Matt Hengel, University of California (Davis) and Regional Laboratory Coordinator