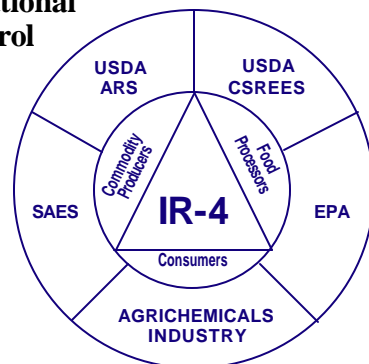


Minor Crop Pest Management, IR-4 - A National  
Agricultural Program to Clear Pest Control  
Agents for Minor Uses

# IR-4 Newsletter

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## AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER

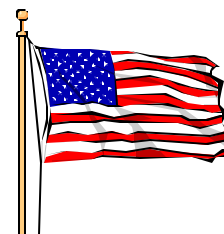
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\*October-December 2002 (4th Quarter)

Wishing Everyone a  
Prosperous New Year  
for 2003  
from the IR-4 Project

United We Stand



### United States Department of Agriculture

Major funding provided by USDA-CSREES and  
USDA-ARS for the IR-4 Project through Congress in  
cooperation with the State Agricultural Experiment  
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**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

As we look back on a highly successful 2002 and look forward to a challenging 2003, it is important to reflect on all of the partners who make the IR-4 Program the success that it has become over its nearly 40 year history.

**The Crop Protection Industry** (both chemical and biological producers) has been very open to approaches in recent years at both the senior management (Vice-President's, Directors and Research Managers) and technical management (regulatory, product and field development, and residue/environmental chemistry) levels to consider developing their products for minor/specialty markets. In recent years, the business and marketing managers have joined these meetings from some companies which has strengthened the commercial emphasis of the programs to insure that the products will be marketed and available to minor crop growers once IR-4 tolerances/clearances are obtained. The EPA's 2003 Workplan lists several interesting products that demonstrate the strength, depth and uniqueness of this partnership. Two of the new chemical registrations, quinoxyfen and spiroxamine, are the result of IR-4 being the initial submitter on behalf of our minor crop growers for products from Dow AgroSciences and Bayer CropScience, respectively. The Dow story on quinoxyfen deserves highlighting as an important new active ingredient partnership initiative.

Dow AgroSciences partnered with IR-4 at an early stage with their new fungicide quinoxyfen which was selected for commercial development based only on European market potential (mainly hops, grapes and other fruit and vegetable crops). Dow wanted to obtain a US import tolerance for quinoxyfen on hops since Europe exports a portion of their crop to the US for beer production. The US Hops Commission started evaluating quinoxyfen for powdery mildew control in resistance management programs due to its different mode-of-action from registered fungicides as did California grape researchers. Soon there was a ground swell of interest from US growers to have the product available and registered. A pioneering partnership meeting was held with Dow management who outlined the commercialization (including regulatory) strategy and partnered with IR-4 to develop quinoxyfen for hops and grapes. That initial partnership has extended beyond those crops to other fruit and vegetable crops. Dow held a Quintec (commercial name for quinoxyfen) Research Forum in early 2002 for university researchers to explore additional US product opportunities and invited two IR-4 plant pathology staff members to actively participate.

Some of the other partnership initiatives IR-4 has forged with crop protection industry companies include the following: Arvesta/fenhexamid and iodomethane; BASF/pyraclostrobin, nicobifen and BAS 516; Bayer CropSciences/imidacloprid and thiacloprid; Dow AgroSciences/spinosad, methoxyfenozide, tebufenozide and zoxamide; Gowan/halosulfuron; and Syngenta/azoxystrobin and several other new chemistries like thiamethoxam. However, we try to work with all companies who have products that fit minor crop pest control needs. Our 2003 Research Program demonstrates that inclusive nature with 13 companies and 43 products on over 90 crops as follows: (Company Products/Crops): Arvesta 2/2; BASF 4/9; Bayer CropScience 6/6; Brushy Mountain Bee Farm 1/many; Cerexagri 1/3; Dow AgroSciences 4/15; DuPont 2/9; FMC 5/10; Gowan 2/2; Nichino America 1/3; Syngenta 8/14; Valent/Sumitomo 5/10 and Uniroyal 2/4.

We are quite pleased that our 2003 Biopesticide Research Program is off to a strong start. There was a high level of disappointment that only 42 proposals were submitted for our 2002 Biopesticide Research Program resulting in only \$300,000 of the \$400,000 budget being granted. Michael Braverman, Jerry Baron and I worked closely with the Biopesticide Industry Alliance (the industry trade association comprised of 30 plus companies) and USDA and land grant university researchers to encourage submission of more proposals. We were astounded with over 100 proposals requesting over \$1.2 million, so it appears that the \$400,000 available in 2003 will be awarded. Michael has more about the program on page 8. The goal is to have the peer reviewed (IR-4 and external reviewers for Early Stage Proposals) proposals approved by the February Project Management Committee Meeting.

**Regulatory Partners** A review of the EPA's 2003 Workplan on New Uses for Currently Registered Chemicals documents the Agencies confidence in working with IR-4. The Workplan lists 54 products including 25 insecticides, 14 fungicides, 13 herbicides, 1 rodenticide, and 1 bird repellent. IR-4 is involved with 43 (80%) of those products as follows: 23 of the 25 insecticides, 11 of the 14 fungicides, 8 of the 13 herbicides and the only rodenticide. IR-4 is the sole data submitter on 20 of the active ingredients, is a joint submitter with the registrant on 17 petitions and is working on projects with 6 of the products. The joint IR-4/registrant submissions are the result of our EPA/IR-4/California Department of

Continued on Page 3

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## IR-4 Highlights

Continued from Page 2

Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) partnership to work together to optimize regulatory resources. This involves our 30-month completion schedule, the rolling Three Year Workplan and our meetings with registrants and the Agency to optimize submitted petitions around active ingredients to maximize regulatory review efficiencies. In recent years, CDPR has reviewed about 30 IR-4 petitions (10% of the EPA workload and 20% of the IR-4 petitions) as part of an EPA Workshare Program. I personally had an opportunity to thank Paul Helliker, CDPR Director, in his offices in December for this significant contribution to California and U.S. minor crop growers. This effort is even more significant in 2003 due to the serious California state budget restrictions.

As noted in the Fall Newsletter, we are quite excited about the prospects of working with the Canadian Team including the Pest Management Regulatory Agency which completed its first joint Workshare Project in 2002 with the EPA on the IR-4 fenhexamid/caneberry petition. With the funding initiatives approved by the Canadian government in 2002 which include additional staff for PMRA minor crop review, we expect the joint Workshare Program with Canada to greatly expand in the next few years. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has already stepped up to the plate and committed to run 56 GLP field residue trials in Canada in 2003 as part of the projects prioritized at the October National Research Plan-

ning Meeting. This is a significant increase from the 10 to 15 residue trials/year they have conducted recently (about 90 since 1996). By being able to utilize Canadian locations as part of the NAFTA zonal residue map, IR-4 is able to save field trial study costs and utilize the data with Canada to harmonize tolerances making the new crop protection technologies available to growers on both sides of the border. It should also help eliminate some trade barriers which restricted exports by U.S. growers to Canada when our crops were treated with recently registered materials that do not have Canadian tolerances.

It goes without saying that the support of our growers and commodity groups through the Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC) is always appreciated. The CLC is still hopeful in making the \$715,000 (\$515,000/CSREES and \$200,000/ARS) they got inserted into the House Appropriations bill stick once the new Congress convenes in 2003 and the continuing agriculture appropriations resolution is ended. As mentioned in the Fall Newsletter, this increase was not in the President's budget and would not be in the House Appropriations request without the efforts of the CLC.

We again thank our crop protection, regulatory and commodity partners for a productive 2002 and look forward to even greater accomplishments in 2003.

Article by Bob Holm

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## IR-4 Co-Sponsors Fourth National IPM Symposium Building Alliances for the Future of IPM

The IR-4 Project is pleased to announce it has signed on as co-sponsor of the Fourth National IPM Symposium/Workshop. The theme of this Symposium/Workshop is building alliances for the future of IPM. The Workshop is scheduled for April 8-10 at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis, IN. At this event, there will be an exciting opportunity to learn about the latest developments in agricultural and urban IPM, and to share your IPM experiences with others. The Symposium includes over 60 breakout sessions (workshop, debate, and presentation formats) encompassing almost

all aspects of IPM, as well as plenary speakers talking about their experiences in building alliances. In addition, several IPM-related organizations are convening their meetings before or after the Symposium, making this a full week of IPM in Indianapolis. The overall goal of the Workshop/Symposium is to share pest management successes and challenges and build alliances for the future of integrated pest management. This Symposium will launch the National Roadmap for IPM, a vision for IPM for the next 10 years in the U.S.

Article by Jerry Baron