

## IR-4 Reduced Risk Programs Since Food Quality Protection Act

The IR-4 Mission is to provide pest management solutions to growers of fruits, vegetables and other minor crops. People who benefit from IR-4 are minor crops growers, food processors and consumers.

Over the past decade, the agrochemical industry has developed a range of new, safer products. These newer crop protection tools are much more selective against target pests, exhibit low human toxicity and have minimal impact on the environment. The EPA recognized this trend and created a classification of Reduced Risk for compounds that meet these strict criteria. IR-4 recognized these trends as well, and in its 1995 strategic plan focused on the new, Reduced Risk chemistries. When FQPA was enacted in August of 1996, IR-4's strategy was already being implemented and in the subsequent six years over 70% of IR-4's program has focused on Reduced Risk or lower risk active ingredients as shown in the table below.

As a means to accelerate the registration of newer reduced risk chemistries. IR-4 has as its goal, a 30-month completion schedule on newly initiated, and high priority projects. IR-4 submits more than 100 petitions per year to EPA, requesting that new MRL's be established on minor crops. IR-4 is speeding access of these new products to minor crop growers. A recent initiative of IR-4 has been to develop residue data on new products at a much earlier stage. To maximize success in obtaining tolerances from the EPA, IR-4 is committed to identifying new chemistries likely to be registered by industry and developing parallel minor crop registration data to coincide with those from the companies seeking EPA registration on major crops. The result of this initiative will be new registrations available for minor crops at the time of the initial registration for major crops. EPA's 2003 workplan is an excellent example of IR-4 initiatives, where three new products include IR-4 submissions requesting MRLs for minor crops.

Other initiatives that IR-4 has implemented include the IR-4/EPA Technical Working Group, where many new initiatives have resulted in hundreds of new registrations on minor crops via scheduling submissions, actively participating in the development of EPA's workplan, and reduced data sets or use of surrogate data to support expanded registrations. The group also plays a major role in EPA's work share program with California's Department of Pesticide Regulation, where nearly thirty new minor use data packages are reviewed each year for EPA. The group has also worked with PMRA on the first successful completion of an EPA/PMRA joint review of a minor use.

In the final analysis, IR-4's strategic plan has worked to successfully provide new reduced risk products for minor crop growers as they begin to transition from the higher risk products to these newer products.

### IR-4 Reduced Risk\* Programs Since Food Quality Protection Act

Year	Total Studies	Reduced Risk* Studies	% Reduced Risk	New Registrations
1996	151	20	13	80
1997	150	45	38	1
1998	163	78	48	58
1999	151	82	54	313
2000	131	104	79	567
2001	124	96	77	564
2002	95	79	83	500 (est.)

\*Reduced Risk = Classified as Reduced Risk products as well as products with lower risk characteristics.