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## IR-4 BIOPESTICIDE PROGRAM

### First Biopesticide Section 18 Approved by EPA

The EPA has approved a Section 18 use permit for ApiLife-Var, a thymol based product used to control varroa mites in beehives, for use in Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, South Carolina, Utah and New Jersey. The product, when registered in each of these states, will be available from Brushy Mountain Bee Supply in North Carolina. The product should be available about August 1, 2003. When available, ApiLife-Var can be used only in late summer or fall applications.

State Apiarists or Extension Specialists can contact Michael Braverman, IR-4 Biopesticide Manager, directly (732-932-9575, ext. 610) for additional information.

Currently, IR-4 is conducting additional residue trials, so a Section 3 (general use) label may be considered next season.

Article by Michael Braverman

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### Dr. Hong Chen to Participate in Crop Grouping Work Sabbatical with EPA/OPP

Dr. Hong Chen, IR-4 Headquarters Scientist, will participate in a Crop Grouping sabbatical beginning in July. Crop grouping allows for many food use clearances with fewer residue studies and lower costs, without sacrificing environmental protection. The crop grouping scheme, which began in 1971, has been an important tool in facilitating the establishment of tolerances for many crops. Crop groupings have been updated several times with the last update published in 1995 (60 Federal Register, No. 95, May 17, 1995, and 40 CFR 180.41). Crop grouping benefits minor crop growers, the crop protection industry, government regulators, and consumers. In October 2002, the USDA/IR-4 Crop Grouping Symposium proposed adding new crops and subgroups into the existing crop groups.

The review and update of these new crops and crop groups requires a joint effort by the EPA, USDA, IR-4 and other stakeholders. IR-4's former Associate Director, George Markle, played a key role in working with the EPA and the USDA to develop crop grouping systems, provide information to Codex Guidelines, and define residue sample requirements. When he retired in January, IR-4 made a commitment to continue this work by assigning Dr. Chen to work with the EPA and the USDA.

Dr. Chen will work with EPA/OPP during a sabbatical that includes a number of multi-day visits. The purpose of this sabbatical is to consult with EPA in the development of the proposed crop group regulations by reviewing the crop groups and recommendations made in the USDA/IR-4 Crop Grouping Symposium. Activities of the sabbatical will include learning sessions on the procedures of various types of pesticide registrations and reviews of the electronic data submissions at the Registration Division; learning sessions on reviewing tolerance petitions and establishing crop groups and commodity definitions at the Health Effects Division; consulting with the EPA Crop Group Regulation Workgroup, on reviewing crop-grouping proposals; participating in crop nomenclature work; and participating in updating Table 1 of the Residue Chemistry guidelines. As soon as procedures for the coordination of long-term cultural practice information needs and for proposing and reviewing crop groupings are established, the sabbatical will come to a conclusion. Dr. Chen will then continue this work as part of her regular responsibilities at IR-4 as Associate Coordinator in the Registration Group.

Article by Sherri Novack