



Plant Sciences Update

An online document for CSREES land-grant and government partners in plant science

January/February 2003

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CSREES Releases Integrated Pest Management RFAs. On December 17, CSREES announced the release of two Requests for Applications (RFAs): (1) the Pest Management Alternatives Special Research Grants (PMAP) and (2) the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) portion of the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program.

(1) The **PMAP Grant** – Supports development and implementation of IPM systems when regulatory action or voluntary cancellation has resulted in the present unavailability of essential pest control tactics. PMAP applications must be received by February 28, 2003.

(2) The IPM portion of the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension grant program contains five separate program areas. These include:

Regional IPM Centers (IPM) – Supports identification and prioritization of IPM research, extension, and outreach needs at the regional level, with the goal of enhancing collaboration among state programs and other entities.

Crops at Risk (CAR) – Supports research, education, and extension programs directed toward multiple tactic IPM systems for crops likely to lose certain pesticides in the near future due to regulatory action or voluntary cancellation.

Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program (RAMP) – Supports long-term development of IPM strategies that eliminate or minimize certain pesticide food residues (particularly residues of concern on foods most consumed by children).

Organic Transitions Program (OTP) – Supports IPM development and outreach for certified organic production.

Methyl Bromide Transitions Program (MBT) – Supports discovery and implementation of IPM alternatives for commodities affected by the phase-out of methyl bromide.

Integrated Pest Management applications must be received by March 31, 2003.

Both RFAs are available at the following Web site:

http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/rfaintegrated_03.htm.

White House & Capitol Hill

Continuing Resolution: CSREES Announces Special Plans to Handle FY 2003 Special Grants, Awards. The U.S. Congress has not yet enacted an Agriculture Appropriations Act for fiscal year (FY) 2003. As a result, CSREES is operating under a Continuing Resolution, which requires the Agency to keep its spending to the FY 2002 funding levels. A final appropriation for FY 2003 may not be known for some time.

However, CSREES will move forward with asking the potential recipients of earmarked awards for Special Grants and Federal Administration research and extension awards to develop and submit proposals. This is necessary so that funds in these budget categories may be awarded by their expiration date of September 30, 2003.

Soon CSREES National Program Leaders will send request for proposal letters to potential recipients of awards in these categories for which there was funding in FY 2002 and which have been proposed in either the House or the Senate Committee Reports, or both, related to the 2003 budget. These requests will reflect the 2002 funding level.

When the final funding amounts, which will include legislatively mandated set asides, are known, the recipients will be asked to adjust project budgets when necessary. Due to the Continuing Resolution, CSREES cannot request proposals for new projects proposed in FY 2003.

"The possibility exists that during floor debate and conference deliberations, the Congress may decide not to fund a particular project and CSREES will not be able to support the proposal developed for such a project," said Louise Ebaugh, CSREES deputy administrator, Office of Extramural Programs. "However, we believe everyone's interest is best served by moving forward in a business-as-usual mode to the extent possible. Cooperation in this effort will be much appreciated."

Later, when a final 2003 appropriation is known, CSREES will request proposals for projects that (1) are new in 2003, or (2) were funded previous to 2003 and for which support was not recommended in either the House or the Senate Committee Reports, but for which funding is ultimately provided in the final FY 2003 Agriculture Appropriations Act.

USDA Releases \$43.5 Million to States for Strengthening Agriculture Homeland Security Protections. On May 30, 2002, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that the USDA is releasing more than \$43 million in state grants and cooperative agreements to bolster food and agricultural homeland security protections. The resources are part of \$328 million approved by President Bush and the Congress earlier this year to strengthen USDA's homeland security preparedness.

"These grants are an important component of the Administration's continued efforts to strengthen homeland security protections as it relates to food and agriculture," said Veneman. "States and local communities, along with academia and the private sector, are critical partners in making sure we are prepared in the event of an emergency."

The \$43 million will provide funding to support critical efforts to strengthen the food supply infrastructure. Of that, \$20.6 million will be provided to our state and university cooperators to be used toward establishing a network of diagnostic laboratories disbursed strategically throughout the nation to permit rapid and accurate diagnosis of animal disease threats; \$14 million will be used to strengthen state capabilities to respond to animal disease emergencies, primarily by helping every state to meet the national standards of emergency preparedness established by the National Animal Health Emergency Management System; \$4.5 million will be used to strengthen state-level surveillance for animal disease; and \$4.3 million will be used to assist states to improve their capability to detect plant pests and diseases.

For a complete list of all state grants and how the funds are allocated within each state, go to <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2002/05/0213.htm>.

CSREES Programs to Realize Increased Funding from New Farm Bill. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) recently passed by Congress and signed by President Bush on May 13 contains more than \$1.5 billion in funding for new research, extension, and educational programs.

"This is good news for CSREES and its partners—an unprecedented investment in the agriculture knowledge system of this country," said CSREES Administrator Colien Hefferan. "The bill is very favorable to our agency and our partners and provides us with a great opportunity to fulfill and expand upon our mission."

The Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS) program is funded at a level of \$120 million in FY 2004, rising \$20 million each year until FY 2007, when it increases to \$200 million per year and continues at that level.

"This, along with a sense of Congress included in the legislation calling for a doubling of agriculture research funding, clearly shows strong support for research, education, and extension," said Hefferan. "Along with a reauthorizing of most of our current programs, there are many opportunities to develop new programs and modify some of the ways in which we now operate. Although it is impossible to list all items of the bill that have a future impact on CSREES and our partners, there are increases for biotechnology risk, organic research, rural e-commerce, renewable resources, biodiesel fuel education, and biomass research and development, to name a few."

Specific provisions in the legislation enhance programs at the 1890, 1994, and U.S. Territory land-grant universities. The authorization of grants to upgrade facilities at 1890 land-grant colleges was increased from \$15 million to \$25 million annually. The 1890 ratio of extension formula funds goes from 6% to 15% and research formula funds from 10% to 25%. These increases are intended to be achieved through increases to the total research and extension formula funds.

The authorized funding level for the Endowment for 1994 Institutions is changed, calling for necessary sums from FY 2002 through FY 2007. Other important language outlining the operation of programs at 1994 institutions were included as requested. Matching requirements, as requested by U.S. Territory land-grant universities, along with important language defining who is included in the definition of "insular area" and the authorization of two separate grant programs for insular area land-grant universities, were included in the legislation. The full text of the new Farm Bill is available online on the USDA Web site (<http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>).

House Committee Action on FY 2003 Agriculture Appropriation. On July 11, 2002, the House Appropriations Committee marked up the FY 2003 appropriation for CSREES. The Department has provided tentative information on the FY 2003 appropriation for CSREES. The total FY 2003 appropriation for CSREES is \$1,073,537,000 which is an increase of \$40,562,000 or 3.9% over the FY 2002 appropriation of \$1,032,975,000 and an increase of \$44,672,000 over the FY 2003 President's Budget of \$1,028,865,000. Totals include estimates for interest earned on the Native American Endowment Fund.

The House Committee mark provides increases for the Hatch Act, McIntire-Stennis Program, 1890 Research and Extension programs, and Smith Lever 3 b&c. The National Research Initiative (NRI) is increased to \$130,000,000. Increases over the FY 2002 appropriation are proposed for Higher Education Programs including Challenge Grants, Graduate Fellowships, Hispanic Partnership Grants, 1890 Capacity Building Grants, and the Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program. The Native American Endowment Fund is increased to \$9,000,000. Increases are also proposed for the 1890 Facilities Program, Renewable Resources Extension Act, Farm Safety, and Ag in the Classroom. Increased funding is provided for the Methyl Bromide Transition Program and Organic Transition

Program. The Committee also provides \$1,000,000 for the new International Science and Education Grants Program and provides \$2,250,000 for the Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Restoration.

Funding is also provided for earmarked Special Research Grants, and Federal Administration research grants and extension projects. Animal Health and Disease Research, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education programs, EFNEP, and other research, education, and extension programs are funded at the FY 2002 levels.

Language is included by the House that prohibits use of funds to carry out the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS). Funds are available for to administer and conduct oversight of grants awarded and obligations previously incurred.

Senate Committee Action on FY 2003 Agriculture Appropriation. On July 25, 2002, the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up the FY 2003 appropriation for CSREES. The total FY 2003 appropriation for CSREES is \$1,188,222,000, which is an increase of \$147,247,000 or approximately 14 percent over the FY 2002 appropriation of \$1,040,975,000 and an increase of \$159,357,000 over the FY 2003 President's Budget of \$1,028,865,000. Totals include estimates for interest earned on the Native American Endowment Fund.

The Senate Committee mark provides increases of 3 percent over the FY 2002 appropriation and FY 2003 President's Budget for the Hatch Act, McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Program, Animal Health and Disease Research, 1890 Research and Extension Programs, and Smith-Lever 3 b&c. The National Research Initiative (NRI) is increased to \$163,986,000. Increases over the FY 2002 appropriation are proposed for Aquaculture Centers, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Programs, the 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program, and the 1890 Facilities Program. Increases are proposed for the Organic Transition Program and the Methyl Bromide Transition Program. In the Integrated Activities account, the Committee also provides \$60,000,000 for Section 401 activities and \$2,600,000 for agriculture technologies. Funding is provided for earmarked Special Research Grants, and Federal Administration research grants and extension projects. Other research, education, and extension programs are funded at the FY 2002 levels.

Sec. 721 of the General Provisions prohibits the use of funds to carry out the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (Sec. 401 of AREERA). Funds are available to administer and conduct oversight of grants awarded and obligations previously incurred.

Sec. 735 of the General Provisions provides that beginning in FY 2003, Special Research Grants and Federal Administration Research and Education grants and projects that have received funding through a CSREES appropriation for more than 5 consecutive years will be assessed an amount equal to 1.125 percent of the gross amount of the grant funds made available under the FY 2003 appropriation. These funds will be placed into the Integrated Activities account and shall be made available for activities pursuant to Sec. 401 of AREERA.

Sec. 745 of the General Provisions also provides \$6,000,000 for Grants for Youth-Serving Institutions.

The CSREES Budget Home Page is at <http://www.reeusda.gov/budget/webfund.htm>.

The House and Senate Reports may be accessed at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app03.html>. Scroll down to Agriculture and click on either the House Report (H. Rpt 107-623) or Senate Report (S. Rpt 107-223).

**Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
(\$000)**

Programs	FY 2002 Appropriation Act	FY 2003 President's Budget	FY 2003 House Committee Action	FY 2003 Senate Committee Action
Research and Education Activities				
Base Programs:				
Hatch Act.....	\$180,148	\$180,148	\$182,000	\$185,553
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry.....	21,884	21,884	23,000	22,541
Evans-Allen Program.....	34,604	34,604	36,000	35,643
Animal Health and Disease, Section 1433.....	<u>5,098</u>	<u>5,098</u>	<u>5,098</u>	<u>5,251</u>
Subtotal	<u>241,734</u>	<u>241,734</u>	<u>246,098</u>	<u>248,988</u>
Special Research Grants:				
Critical Issues.....	200	0 a/	0 a/	0 a/
Expert IPM Decision Support System.....	177	177	177	177
Global Change, UV-B Monitoring.....	1,402	2,500	2,000	2,500
Integrated Pest Management & Biological Control.....	2,725	2,725	2,725	2,725
Minor Crop Pest Management, IR-4.....	10,485	10,485	11,000	10,485
Minor Use Animal Drugs.....	588	588	588	0
National Biological Impact Assessment Program.....	248	253	253	253
Pest Management Alternatives.....	1,619	1,619	1,619	1,619
Rural Development Centers.....	560	0 b/	0 b/	0 b/
Other.....	<u>94,210</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>99,913</u>	<u>101,481</u>
Subtotal	<u>112,214</u>	<u>18,347</u>	<u>118,275</u>	<u>119,240</u>
National Research Initiative Competitive Grants	120,452	240,000	130,000	163,986
Other Research:				
Critical Agricultural Materials.....	720	0	0	1,500
Aquaculture Centers.....	3,996	3,996	3,996	5,000
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.....	12,500	9,230	12,500	15,000
Supplemental and Alternative Crops.....	924	0	1,043	1,000
1994 Research Grants.....	998	998	1,200	1,000
Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Restoration.....	0	0	2,250	0
Federal Administration (Direct Appropriation).....	<u>21,676</u>	<u>10,813</u>	<u>27,059</u>	<u>26,505</u>
Subtotal	<u>40,814</u>	<u>25,037</u>	<u>48,048</u>	<u>50,005</u>
Higher Education:				
Graduate Fellowships Grants.....	2,993	3,500	3,500	2,993
Institution Challenge Grants.....	4,340	5,500	5,500	4,340
1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants.....	9,479	9,479	10,000	11,479
Multicultural Scholars.....	998	998	998	998
Hispanic Serving Institutions Education Grants Program.....	3,492	1,549	3,492	3,500
Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program.....	7,100	1,549	1,700	1,700
Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund.....		7,100	9,000	7,100
Interest Earned on the Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund.....	1,487			
Secondary/2-Year Post Secondary.....	1,000	2,232 c/	2,232 c/	2,232 c/
Alaska Native-serving and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions.....	<u>2,997</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Subtotal	<u>35,435</u>	<u>2,997</u>	<u>2,997</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Total, Research and Education Activities	550,649	562,965	583,848	621,061

a/ FY 2003 funds for Critical Issues are in the Integrated Activities Account
b/ FY 2003 funds for Regional Rural Development Centers are in the Integrated Activities Account
c/ Estimated Interest Earned on the Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund
d/ In FY 2002, Grants for Youth Serving Institutions are funded from CCC funds. In FY 2003, the Senate Committee provides funds for this program under Section 745 of the General Provisions.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (\$000)				
Programs	FY 2002 Appropriation Act	FY 2003 President's Budget	FY 2003 House Committee Action	FY 2003 Senate Committee Action
Integrated Activities				
Section 406 Legislative Authority:				
Water Quality.....	\$12,971	\$12,971	\$12,971	\$12,971
Food Safety.....	14,967	14,967	14,967	14,967
Regional Pest Management Centers.....	4,531	4,531	4,531	4,531
Crops at Risk from FQPA Implementation.....	1,497	1,497	1,497	1,497
FQPA Risk Mitigation Program for Major Food Crop Systems.....	4,889	4,889	4,889	4,889
Methyl Bromide Transition Program.....	2,498	2,498	3,500	3,000
Organic Transition Program.....	1,500	499	2,500	1,750
Agriculture Technologies.....	0	0	0	2,600
Subtotal.....	42,853	41,852	44,855	46,205
Other Legislative Authorities:				
International Science and Education Grants Program.....	0	1,000	1,000	0
Critical Issues.....	0	500	500	500
Regional Rural Development Centers.....	0	1,513	1,513	1,513
Section 401 Activities.....	0	0	0	60,000
Subtotal.....	0	3,013	3,013	62,013
Total, Integrated Activities.....	42,853	44,865	47,868	108,218
Extension Activities				
Base Programs:				
Smith-Lever Formula 3(b)&(c).....	\$275,940	\$275,940	\$277,000	\$284,218
1890 Institutions.....	31,181	31,181	32,000	32,117
Subtotal.....	307,121	307,121	309,000	316,335
Smith-Lever 3(d) Programs:				
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.....	58,566	58,566	58,566	58,566
Pest Management.....	10,759	10,759	10,759	10,759
Farm Safety.....	5,250	0	5,800	5,250
Regional Rural Development Centers.....	953	0 b/	0 b/	0 b/
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk.....	8,481	8,481	8,481	8,481
Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification.....	499	499	499	499
Sustainable Agriculture.....	4,750	3,792	4,750	5,000
Extension Indian Reservations Program.....	1,996	1,996	1,996	1,996
Subtotal.....	91,254	84,093	90,851	90,551
Other Extension Programs:				
Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions.....	3,273	3,273	3,273	3,500
Renewable Resources Extension Act.....	4,093	4,093	5,000	4,093
Rural Health and Safety.....	2,622	0	2,622	2,622
1890 Facilities (Sec.1447).....	13,500	13,500	14,000	15,000
Federal Administration:				
Other.....	17,010	8,355	16,375	20,142
Ag in the Classroom.....	600	600	700	700
Grants for Youth Serving Institutions.....	8,000 d/	0	0	6,000 d/
Subtotal.....	49,098	29,821	41,970	52,057
Total, Extension Activities.....	447,473	421,035	441,821	458,943
Total, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.....	1,040,975	1,028,865	1,073,537	1,188,222

Invasive Species Plan, Web Site Available. The National Invasive Species Council's Management Plan is available at <http://www.invasivespecies.gov>. This plan is a product of ten cabinet-level council members who were directed to provide leadership on this issue by a February 1999 Executive Order. The plan outlines prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, and management strategies to prevent the adverse effects of invasive species. The Web site also gives up-to-date information on a variety of invasive species issues.

CSREES Program Activity

The New and Improved CSREES Pest Managers e-Mail Distribution List is now up and running. The purpose of this distribution list is to share information about CSREES' pest management programs, including requests for applications and newsletters.

The list has been expanded to include a broader cross-section of those involved with IPM research and extension programs. The Pest Managers list now includes those involved with the Pesticide Safety and Education Program (PSEP), Pest Management Centers, the Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM), and the Minor Crop Pest Management Program (IR-4). In addition, applicants and others associated with CSREES' Plant and Animal Systems competitive grants programs and other interested parties have been added.

If there are others who are interested in being added to the distribution list, please have them contact us with their names and e-mail addresses so that we may add them. If you have an e-mail address change, please contact Rashele Maclin (rmaclin@reeusda.gov) so that we can update.

EPA, CSREES Work Together on New Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Rule. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christine Todd Whitman recently announced that the agency is working with the agricultural community to control water pollution from the nation's largest livestock operations, while keeping American agriculture viable. In a news conference, Whitman, joined by Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, announced a final rule that will require all large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) to obtain permits that will ensure that they protect America's waters from wastewater and manure. The rule will control runoff from agricultural feeding operations, preventing billions of pounds of pollutants from entering America's waters.

"This new rule is a historic step forward in our efforts to make America's waters cleaner and purer," said Whitman. "It will help reduce what has been a growing problem—the fact that animal waste generated by CAFOs poses an increasing threat to the health of America's waters. EPA looks forward to continuing to work with USDA and with the agricultural community to ensure that the goal we all share—cleaner, purer water—is being advanced by our efforts."

"The new rule is unique in that it comes after unprecedented cooperation between EPA and USDA to find a way to help producers meet their own and society's goals for environmental quality and profitability," said Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman. "USDA stands ready to provide assistance in an incentive-based approach combining information and education, research and technology transfer, direct technical assistance and financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other Farm Bill programs."

The announcement on December 15, 2002, finalizes a rule that will replace 25-year-old technology requirements and permitting regulations that did not address current environmental needs and did not keep pace with growth in the industry. Effective manure management practices required by this rule will maximize the use of manure as a resource for agriculture while reducing adverse impacts on the environment.

For more information visit: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/caforule>.

New Reporting System Released. The newest version of the Performance Planning and Reporting System was released on August 12, 2002, to gather nationwide data from the Integrated Pest Management Implementation Program and the Pesticide Safety Education Program.

Completed Plans of Work and Annual Reports for these programs are accessible at <http://www.pprs.info>.

The system relocated to the National Science Foundation Center for Integrated Pest Management (CIPM) at North Carolina State University after originally being developed at the Information Development Expanding Awareness (IDEA) service, affiliated with Iowa State University. The CIPM provides leadership, software development, and system maintenance for other pest management program information products, including:

- Pest Management Centers Web Information System (<http://www.pmcenters.org>),
- The Cotton Pickin' Web (<http://ipmwww.ncsu.edu/cottonpickin/>)
- Web Development for the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
- New Pest Management Technologies Database (<http://www.pestmanagement.info>)

National IPM Symposium Scheduled. The 4th National Integrated Pest Management Symposium will take place April 8-10, 2003, at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis, IN. The symposium will include sessions for invited speakers, posters, workshops, and informal conferences. The overall goal is to share pest management successes and challenges and build alliances for the future of integrated pest management. All disciplines relating to IPM including weed science, plant pathology, vertebrate management, entomology, nematology, horticulture, agronomy, communications, economics, sociology, etc. are encouraged to participate. This symposium will launch the National Roadmap for IPM, a vision for IPM for the next 10 years in the U.S. Registration information will be forthcoming.

CSREES Personnel Tour Minority-Operated Farms. From July 22 to July 31, 2002, personnel from multiple areas of CSREES participated in a minority farm tour organized by the Plant and Animal Systems (PAS) Unit. The tour was made possible with the cooperation of three 1890 land-grant universities—Southern University, Alcorn State University, and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The primary goal of the tour was to identify ways to better engage with 1890 land-grant institutions so that their outstanding record of service to minority farmers may continue to improve.

IR-4 Crop Grouping Symposium Held. The inter-regional research project number four (IR-4) held a crop grouping symposium on October 7-8, 2002. IR-4 sponsored the symposium to propose the expansion of the established crop grouping regulations (40 CFR 180.81). IR-4's concept is to include additional minor crops in the established groups and to propose new crop groups (e.g., oilseed, tropicals, small grain, etc.). The international harmonization of the crop-grouping scheme is an important aspect of this effort. Additional information can be obtained at the symposium Web site (<http://pestdata.ncsu.edu/ir-4/Bindex.cfm?doc=docs/2002CgroupingSymp.htm>).

Pest Management Centers Break the 500 Crop Profile Mark. Pest Management Centers recently made the 500th crop profile available on a cooperatively constructed and managed Web site (<http://www.pmcenters.org>). FQPA instructs USDA and EPA to obtain pesticide use and usage data on major and minor crops. The concept of "Crop Profiles" was introduced more than 2 years ago to satisfy this mandate. It is the intent that profiles provide the production story for a commodity, including current pest management practices, and look at current research activities directed at finding replacement strategies for pesticides of concern. Crop profiles include typical (not just what appears on the label or in recommendations) pesticide use information, as well as the use of pesticide alternatives. Land-grant university based Pest Management Centers coordinate this effort and are funded by Regional Pest Management Centers. The Regional Pest Management Centers Program is administered by CSREES with the cooperation of the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy and the EPA.

Canada Creates Minor Use Program Similar to IR-4. The Canadian government has announced a multi-billion-dollar investment plan to strengthen Canadian agriculture by focusing on five integrated elements: food safety and quality, environmentally responsible production, science and

innovation, renewal, and business risk management. A portion of the funding will allow Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada to provide faster registration of a broader range of minor-use crop protection chemicals, which will improve the availability of minor-use and reduced-risk products for Canadian growers. AAFC is building a system similar to the U.S. IR-4 Project and will be increasing data generation trials and laboratory analysis for minor-use pest control products of priority interest to Canadian growers. A close alliance between Canada and the IR-4 program has been in place since 1996 and this alliance will be expanded. Increased cooperation will help both countries maximize research efficiencies and registration submissions, improve health and environmental protection, build the concept of a North American crop protection market, and help minimize trade irritants. For more information, contact Al Tomlin (AAFC) at 613-759-7833 or Richard Aucoin (PMRA) at 613-736-3780.

Published Chemical Use Data Available on New Web Site. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announced the availability of published chemical use statistics through a new Web site developed by North Carolina State University's Center for Integrated Pest Management. Data users can now 1) search agricultural chemical usage data based on crop, year, region, or active ingredient; 2) extract various chemical usage statistics from previously published data; and 3) create U.S. maps or descriptive charts based on these data. Data are currently available for crop years 1990 to 2001. NASS began collecting chemical usage statistics in 1990 in response to food safety and water quality concerns raised by U.S. consumers and Congressional initiatives passed to address these concerns. Crops and states surveyed each year change based on evolving program needs and budgeted resources. Information on the chemical use program, by year, is available on the Web site. These data can be accessed either by going to the NASS home page at <http://www.usda.gov/nass> and clicking on the "Ag Chem Database" icon or by going directly to the USDA Regional Pest Management Center's National Database Web site at <http://www.pestmanagement.info/nass>. The sites also have information on contacts for technical and subject matter related questions.

SARE Program Honored for Two Publications. CSREES' Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program recently won two certificates of excellence from the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) for educational materials.

The winning publications included "The New American Farmer," a 160-page collection of in-depth interviews with farmers and ranchers describing their diverse operations, profitability, quality of life, and impact on the environment, and "Profitable Poultry: Raising Birds on Pasture," a 16-page bulletin featuring farmer experiences and the latest research in a guide to raising chickens and turkeys using pens, movable fencing, and pastures.

ASA is a national group of soil science researchers. To view the award-winning publications, go to <http://www.sare.org/htdocs/pubs/>.

CSREES Partners, USDA produce 'Butterflies and Bt Corn: Allowing Science to Guide Decisions,' as both an attractive Web site and as a hard-copy publication explaining how a mushrooming controversy over colliding interests was resolved. The scientific and public furor was generated by a small, lab-based study in 1999 indicating that caterpillars suffered when forced to feed on *Asclepias* spp. (milkweed) leaves heavily dusted with Bt-corn pollen, thereby triggering concerns about Bt crops. Attendees at a subsequent workshop on the topic conclusively agreed that credible, science-based facts were needed before any decisions could be made. An international group of some 30 researchers published five papers which, in sum, presented factual evidence that, under actual field conditions, the likelihood of monarch caterpillars being exposed to damaging levels of Bt-corn pollen was low. The Web site is <http://www.ars.usda.gov/sites/monarch/>. A limited number of copies of the publication are available from R.L. Hellmich, USDA-ARS Corn Insect and Crop Genetic Research Unit, 110 Genetics Lab, c/o In-sectary, Ames, IA 50011 (e-mail RHellmich@iastate.edu).

Upcoming Plant Science & Pest Management Meetings:

North Eastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) – January 6-9, 2003; Hyatt Regency, Baltimore, MD (<http://www.ppws.vt.edu/newss/newss.htm>).

Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) – February 9-12, 2003; Adam's Mark Hotel; Jacksonville, FL (<http://www.wssa.net>).

Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) – March 11-14, 2003; Sheraton Kauai, Poipu Beach, Koloa, HI (<http://www.wsweedscience.org>).

Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) – January 27-29, 2003; Adam's Mark, Houston TX (<http://www.weedscience.msstate.edu/swss>).

Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) – July 20-23, 2003, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME (<http://www.apms.org>).

American Phytopathological Society (APS) – August 9-13, 2003, Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC (<http://www.apsnet.org>).

Agency Personnel Update

CSREES Plant and Animal Systems Unit Seeking National Program Leader for Horticulture.

CSREES Plant Systems is seeking to fill a GS-13/14 position for a program leader in the area of horticultural crop production, plant diseases, nematology, and crop physiology—to be responsible for the coordination and integration of related horticultural extension, education, and/or research programs. The position opens October 31, 2002 and will close on January 15, 2003. The position announcement can be viewed on the Web at <http://www.reeusda.gov/hrd/S3M-4112.htm>.

Dennis Kopp Accepts LEGIS Fellowship. Dennis Kopp, head of CSREES' Plant Systems, will participate in a Brookings Institution LEGIS Fellowship, a 6-month Congressional staff experience, beginning January 6, 2003. Mike Fitzner will serve as interim head of CSREES' Plant Systems in Kopp's absence.

CSREES Deputy Administrator Ted Wilson to Retire in January. After a career in academic and public service spanning three decades, Edward M. "Ted" Wilson has will retire in January 2003. Wilson is CSREES' deputy administrator for Competitive Programs.

"Ted Wilson exemplifies effective leadership in government," said CSREES Administrator Colien Hefferan. "His organizational skills, broad and profound knowledge of science, and abilities in research administration have been widely recognized, not only in CSREES, but in other government agencies, the university community, and numerous private organizations. Two U.S. Presidents have honored him with Presidential Rank Awards for his meritorious service as a senior executive."

Wilson's involvement with agricultural science and knowledge includes formal studies at McGill University in Canada and at The Ohio State University, where he has been named a "Distinguished Alumnus" by the OSU Agricultural Alumni Association. Wilson taught at Tuskegee University and served as Dean at Lincoln University prior to coming to Washington, DC.

"At each institution, he became both a campus and a community leader, demonstrating the same strong interpersonal skills that he employed throughout his federal career," said Hefferan. "Wilson has been an extremely effective advocate for the knowledge system that is the foundation of our mission in CSREES. His ability to include a wide array of employees, customers, and stakeholders has been a hallmark of his great success in government. At both a personal and a professional level, he will be missed."

CSREES will soon launch a search for Wilson's replacement.

Plant Science staff appointments over the past 12 months:

Ralph Otto Appointed to Head Plant and Animal Systems. Ralph A. Otto serves as the deputy administrator for Plant and Animal Systems within CSREES. He is responsible for the management of substantial portions of Hatch research and Smith-Lever extension funds. In addition, his unit manages activities under the Integrated Accounts portfolio of CSREES, numerous special research grants, and several regional programs. Otto has held this position since March 2002.

From 1995 through early 2002, Otto served as the deputy administrator for the Natural Resources and Environment Unit of CSREES. In this capacity, he and his unit managed Smith-Lever and Hatch funds, McIntire-Stennis forestry research projects, and programs under the Renewable Resources Extension Act.

Otto has been with USDA since 1980. He served as the assistant deputy administrator for National Resources and Rural Development with the Extension Service from 1990 until it became a part of CSREES in 1994. He has been very active in agency and inter-agency efforts to streamline and reorganize, and he served on the steering committee that planned the current CSREES structure.

Plant Section Program Specialist Hired. Bill Hoffman joined the CSREES Plant Systems Section as a program specialist in late January 2002. Formerly he was a pest management specialist at Pennsylvania State University and provided leadership to the State Integrated Pest Management Program, the Pesticide Safety Education Program, and the Regional Pest Management Center leadership for the State. Hoffman has worked in both the public and private sector.

Plant Science Staff Directory. For more information about our programs consult our Web site or the appropriate individual listed below:

Name	Discipline/Program/Issues	Telephone (202)	E-mail*
Bewick, Tom	Horticulture; invasive species, organic ag., urban ag.	401-3356	tbewick
Bolton, Herb	Entomology; invasive species (health/vector mgt)	401-4201	hbolton
Cardwell, Kitty	Plant pathology, methyl bromide alternatives	401-1790	kcardwell
Fitzner, Mike	Plant breeding; IPM; pest management centers	401-4939	mfitzner
Hoffman, Bill	Program specialist	401-1112	whoffman
Jones, Dan	Biochemistry & molecular biology; biotech.	401-6854	ddjones
Jones, Preston	Agronomy; precision agriculture	401-1990	jjones
Johnson, Monte	Entomology; environmental toxicology; PSEP; PMAP	401-1108	mpjohnson
Kimble-Day, Kathy	Program specialist	401-4420	kday
Kopp, Dennis	Entomology, pest management centers	401-6437	dkopp
Lichens-Park, Ann	Biol. of plant microbe assn., microbial gene sequencing	401-6466	apark
Lin, Liang-Shiou	Plant genetic mechanisms, plant growth & development	401-5042	Llin
McLean, Gail	Plant responses to the environment, plant biochemistry, plant genome-bioinformatics	401-6060	gmclean
Meyer, Rick	Entomology; CAR; critical issues	401-4891	hmeyer
Nowierski, Bob	Biobased pest management; applied ecology; RAMP	401-4900	rnowierski
Ortman, Eldon	Pest management centers, IPM	401-5804	eortman
Parochetti, Jim	Weed science; IR-4	401-4354	jparochetti
Purcell-Miramontes, Mary	Entomology, nematology, bio-based pest management	401-5114	mpurcell
Shewan, Mary	Program specialist	401-6195	mshewan
Sheely, Deb	Biotech. risk assessment; biology of weedy & invasive plants	401-1624	dsheely
Thro, Ann Marie	Plant breeding; plant genetics; genomics	401-6702	athro

* E-mail addresses are listed as above plus "@reeusda.gov" (example: whoffman@reeusda.gov).

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Washington, DC 20250-2220

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Washington, DC 20024

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CSREES Plant Science Web Sites:

Plant & Animal Systems Unit:

<http://www.reeusda.gov/pas>

Pest Management Program Index:

<http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/programs/pest.htm>

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