



Plant Sciences Update

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

May/June 2003

In this issue:

Lead Story:	CSREES Has Prominent Role at 4th National IPM Symposium
CSREES Program Activity:	New and Improved CSREES Pest-Managers E-mail Distribution List, EPA & CSREES Work Together on New Concentrated Animal Feeding Rule, New Reporting System Released, CSREES Personnel Tour Minority Operated Farms, Washington DC Celebration Marked IR-4's 40th Birthday, Canada Creates Minor Use Program Similar to IR-4, PMCs Break 500, Chemical Use Published Data Available on New Web Site, SARE Program Honored for Two Publications, Help Yourself to a Healthy Home, CSREES Partners & U.S. Dept. of Agriculture produce publication "Butterflies and Bt Corn: Allowing Science to Guide Decisions," Invasive Species Plan & Web Site Available
Washington, DC:	Veneman Outlines Ag Priorities, USDA Releases \$43.5 Million to States to Strengthen Ag Homeland Security, CSREES Programs to Realize Increased Funding from New Farm Bill, President Signs FY 2003 Budget – Submits Proposal for FY 2004
Agency Personnel Update:	CSREES Plant and Animal Systems Unit Seeking Plant Sciences Program Specialist, Dennis Kopp Accepts Legis Fellowship, New Staff, Plant Sciences Staff Directory, Sending Mail to CSREES, CSREES Plant Science Web Sites

CSREES Has Prominent Role at 4th National IPM Symposium. CSREES played a prominent role at the 4th National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Symposium held April 8-10 in Indianapolis. The symposium was preceded four CSREES multi-state IPM research committee meetings.

Mike Fitzner and Eldon Ortman served on the steering committee, and Mike delivered the symposium's closing remarks. Robert Nowierski served on the program committee and as the topic coordinator for biological control and bio-based IPM.

CSREES provided direct support for the symposium, as did several CSREES supported programs, including: CSREES/Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers, CSREES/Regional Integrated Pest Management Grants Programs, and CSREES/IR-4.

The theme of the symposium was "Building Alliances for the Future of IPM" and was centered on four topics: IPM Recognition and Incentive, Marketing IPM, New Management Technologies, and Evaluation and Impact Assessment. It featured over 60 breakout sessions and 200 poster displays. CSREES employees who gave presentations at the symposium included Mike Fitzner, Bob Nowierski, Eldon Ortman, and Bill Hoffman. Kathy Kimball-Day, Bill Hoffman, Mary Purcell, Mike Fitzner, and Dennis Kopp contributed to poster authorship.

CSREES programs were featured prominently at the symposium's sessions and posters. These include current program of Extension IPM Implementation, Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers, Crops at Risk, Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program, National Research Initiative, National Plant Diagnostic Network, Pesticide Safety Education Program, and IR-4. Potential future programs were also featured including the IPM training and certification program for federal employees.

CSREES Program Activity

The New and Improved CSREES Pest Managers E-mail Distribution List is now up and running. This distribution list shares 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, 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 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 William Hoffman (whoffman@csrees.usda.gov).

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 M. 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 Extension IPM 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's 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>)

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. The planning phases of the 2003 minority farm tour to Oklahoma are currently underway.

Washington DC Celebration Marked IR-4's 40th Year of Successfully Increasing Pest Control Options for Specialty Crops. Senator Patty Murray (WA) and Congressman Doc Hastings (WA) sponsored a reception on February 26, 2003 to recognize the accomplishments of the IR-4 Project (Interregional Research Project No. 4) and its 40 years of commitment to specialty crop agriculture. The majority of crop protection uses registered for specialty crops over the last four decades were facilitated through the efforts of IR-4. These uses have proved essential in maintaining a safe and secure supply of high value (\$45 billion) specialty foods such as fruits and vegetables, as well as high quality greenhouse and ornamentals plants. Joining the celebration were commodity representatives and growers from across the U.S., along with Congressional, EPA, USDA, University, and IR-4 representatives.

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.

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>). The Food Quality Protection Act (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.

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.

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 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).

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 10 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.

White House & Capitol Hill

Veneman Outlines Ag Priorities. Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman presented the keynote address at the opening of the 79th Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum where she outlined some key priorities for the food and agriculture sector to help America's farmers and ranchers better compete in the 21st Century.

In keeping with the Forum theme: "Competing in the 21st Century", Veneman said that as agriculture looks to the future, several critical areas are important to examine closely to help shape the future of the industry:

- Applying technology to its fullest potential, advancing alternative uses for agricultural products, and adopting a forward-looking regulatory system that ensures the integrity of technology advancements in food and agriculture;
- Strengthening the nation's food safety systems and ensuring the protection of the food supply against potential bioterrorist threats;
- Improving and expanding risk management tools for producers to better prepare the agriculture sector when it faces difficult and challenging times; and
- Continuing to expand and open new international markets and working harder to educate all involved about the perils to agriculture if progress is not made in this area.

In addition, Veneman announced a new initiative to strengthen the crop insurance program. "The foundation of the nation's risk management program is crop insurance. Today over 50 percent of the insured acreage is now insured at a 70 percent or higher level of coverage compared with only 9 percent in 1998," she said. "Despite such progress we need to strengthen our crop insurance program and improve risk management tools, generally. Our goals are to insure widely available and effective risk management tools for our diverse farm sector, for farmers and stakeholders to be well informed, that the delivery system is fair and effective, the programs are operated with integrity, and that we excel at service to the nation's producers."

To achieve this objective, the Secretary has asked the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to identify underserved producers and closely examine the regions, commodities and risks and then prioritize the development of new products to fill the gaps identified. She also announced the release of \$18 million in RMA financial assistance to reach underserved producers in 15 states. For the full text of her remarks, go to www.usda.gov.

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>)

President Signs FY 2003 Budget - Submits Proposal for FY 2004. During February of 2003, President Bush signed the FY 2003 federal budget and proposed the FY 2004 federal budget. These include CSREES budgets of \$1.126 billion and \$1.014 billion respectively. The following table details:

- The Final Appropriation Act (Budget) for FY 2002
- The President's Proposed Budget for FY 2003
- The Final Appropriation Act (Budget) with 0.5% Recession for FY 2003
- The President's Proposed Budget for FY 2004

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

Programs	FY 2002 Appropriation Act	FY 2003 President's Budget	FY 2003 Appropriation with Recession	FY 2004 President's Budget
Research and Education Activities				
Base Programs:				
Hatch Act.....	\$180,148	\$180,148	\$178,977	\$180,148
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry.....	21,884	21,884	21,742	21,884
Evans-Allen Program	34,604	34,604	35,411	36,000
Animal Health and Disease, Section 1433.....	<u>5,098</u>	<u>5,098</u>	<u>5,065</u>	<u>5,098</u>
Subtotal.....	241,734	241,734	241,195	243,130
Special Research Grants:				
Critical Issues.....	200	0 a/	0 a/	0 a/
Expert IPM Decision Support System.....	177	177	176	177
Global Change, UV-B Monitoring	1,402	2,500	2,235	2,500
Integrated Pest Management & Biological Control.....	2,725	2,725	2,707	2,725
Minor Crop Pest Management, IR-4.....	10,485	10,485	10,673	10,485
Minor Use Animal Drugs	588	588	584	588
National Biological Impact Assessment Program.....	248	253	251	253
Pest Management Alternatives	1,619	1,619	1,608	1,619
Rural Development Centers.....	560	0 b/	0 b/	0 b/
Other.....	<u>94,210</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>108,465</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal.....	112,214	18,347	126,699	18,347
National Research Initiative Competitive Grants . . .	120,452	240,000	166,045	200,000
Other Research:				
Critical Agricultural Materials.....	720	0	1,242	0
Aquaculture Centers	3,996	3,996	4,471	3,996
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program	12,500	9,230	13,661	9,230
Supplemental and Alternative Crops	924	0	1,188	0
1994 Research Grants.....	998	998	1,093	998
Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Restoration	0	0	994	0
Federal Administration (Direct Appropriation)	<u>21,676</u>	<u>7,892</u>	<u>29,466</u>	<u>8,311</u>
Subtotal.....	40,814	22,116	52,115	22,535
Higher Education:				
Graduate Fellowships Grants.....	2,993	3,500	3,222	4,500
Institution Challenge Grants	4,340	5,500	4,888	5,500
1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants	9,479	9,479	11,404	9,479
Multicultural Scholars	998	998	992	998
Hispanic Serving Institutions Education Grants Program	3,492	3,492	4,073	3,492
Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program.....	1,549	1,549	1,689	2,250
Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund.....	7,100	7,100	7,054	9,000
Interest Earned on the Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund.....	1,487	2,232 c/	1,771	2,508 c/
Secondary/2-Year Post Secondary.....	1,000	1,000	994	1,000
Alaska Native-serving and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions	<u>2,997</u>	<u>2,997</u>	<u>3,477</u>	<u>2,997</u>
Subtotal.....	35,435	37,847	39,564	41,724
Total, Research and Education Activities.....	550,649	560,044	625,618	525,736
Outreach and Assistance for Disadvantaged Farmers Activities				
Section 2501:				
Outreach and Technician Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program	\$3,243	\$3,243	\$3,470	\$4,003

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

Programs	FY 2002 Appropriation Act	FY 2003 President's Budget	FY 2003 Appropriation with Recession	FY 2004 President's Budget
Integrated Activities				
Section 406 Legislative Authority:				
Water Quality	\$12,971	\$12,971	\$12,887	\$12,971
Food Safety.....	14,967	14,967	14,870	14,967
Regional Pest Management Centers	4,531	4,531	4,501	4,531
Crops at Risk from FQPA Implementation.....	1,497	1,497	1,487	1,497
FQPA Risk Mitigation Program for Major Food Crop Systems.....	4,889	4,889	4,857	4,889
Methyl Bromide Transition Program.....	2,498	2,498	3,229	2,498
Organic Transition Program	<u>1,500</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>2,111</u>	<u>499</u>
Subtotal.....	42,853	41,852	43,942	41,852
Other Legislative Authorities:				
International Science and Education Grants Program	0	1,000	497	1,000
Critical Issues	0	500	497	2,500
Regional Rural Development Centers	0	1,513	1,503	1,513
Homeland Security	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,000</u>
Subtotal.....	<u>0</u>	<u>3,013</u>	<u>2,497</u>	<u>21,013</u>
Total, Integrated Activities	42,853	44,865	46,439	62,865
Extension Activities				
Base Programs:				
Smith-Lever Formula 3(b)&(c)	\$275,940	\$275,940	\$279,390	\$275,940
1890 Institutions	<u>31,181</u>	<u>31,181</u>	<u>31,908</u>	<u>32,117</u>
Subtotal.....	307,121	307,121	311,298	308,057
Smith-Lever 3(d) Programs:				
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program	58,566	58,566	58,185	60,909
Pest Management	10,759	10,759	10,689	10,759
Farm Safety	5,250	0	5,489	0
Regional Rural Development Centers	953	0b/	0 b/	0 b/
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk.....	8,481	8,481	8,426	8,481
Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification.....	499	499	496	499
Sustainable Agriculture	4,750	3,792	4,843	3,792
Extension Indian Reservations Program	<u>1,996</u>	<u>1,996</u>	<u>1,983</u>	<u>1,996</u>
Subtotal.....	91,254	84,093	90,111	86,436
Other Extension Programs:				
Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions	3,273	3,273	3,365	3,273
Renewable Resources Extension Act.....	4,093	4,093	4,516	4,093
Rural Health and Safety.....	2,622	0	2,605	0
1890 Facilities (Sec.1447)	13,500	13,500	14,903	13,500
Grants for Youth Serving Institutions	8,000 d/	0	2,981	0
Federal Administration:				
Other	17,010	5,680	20,046	6,159
Ag in the Classroom	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>695</u>	<u>750</u>
Subtotal.....	49,098	27,146	49,111	27,775
Total, Extension Activities	447,473	418,360	450,520	422,268
Total, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service	<u>1,044,218</u>	<u>1,026,512</u>	<u>1,126,047</u>	<u>1,014,872</u>

a/ Funds for Critical Issues are in the Integrated Activities Account.

b/ Funds for Regional Rural Development Centers are in the Integrated Activities Account. However, a new special research grant is included in the research & education account for rural development centers in Louisiana & North Dakota. Funding for this grant is included in the Special Research Grants total for other grants.

c/ Estimated Interest Earned on the Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund.

d/ In FY 2002, Grants for Youth Serving Institutions are funded from CCC funds.

e/ Responsibility for this program was transferred to CSREES in FY 2003.

Agency Personnel Update

CSREES Plant and Animal Systems Unit Seeking Plant Sciences Program Specialist.

CSREES Plant Systems is seeking to fill a GS-9/11/12 position for a plant science program specialist. This is an exciting opportunity to have a part in the activities of the land grant university system at a national level. The position requires applicable and extensive education and experiential background; knowledge of U.S. land-grant university system; highly effective communication skills; and the ability to organize, analyze, assess, and interpret scientific and other information. Application packages will be accepted until May 2nd, 2003. The position announcement can be viewed on the Web at <http://www.reeusda.gov/hrd/S3M-4153.htm>

Dennis Kopp Accepts LEGIS Fellowship. Dennis Kopp, head of CSREES' Plant Systems, is participating in a Brookings Institution LEGIS fellowship, a 6-month Congressional staff experience, that began January 6, 2003. Mike Fitzner is serving as interim head of CSREES' Plant Systems in Kopp's absence.

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 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; PMIDSS; 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
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).

U.S. Postal Service Mail:

USDA/CSREES/PAS
Mail Stop 2220
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-2220

Express Mail:

USDA/CSREES/PAS
800 9th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Sending Mail to CSREES. Whenever possible, please send mail to CSREES through the private carrier of your choice instead of the US Postal Service.

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>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.