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United States Department of Agriculture  
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service



# Plant Sciences Update

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

September/October 2002

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**USDA RELEASES \$43.5 MILLION TO STATES FOR STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE HOMELAND SECURITY PROTECTIONS.** On May 30, 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>.

## White House & Capitol Hill

**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 Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator. "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 Fiscal Year (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 website (<http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>).

**House Committee Action on Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Agriculture Appropriation.** On Thursday, July 11, 2002, the House Appropriations Committee marked up the FY 2003 appropriation for the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (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 Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Agriculture Appropriation.** On Thursday, July 25, 2002, the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up the FY 2003 appropriation for the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (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: <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
<b>Research and Education Activities</b>				
<b>Base Programs:</b>				
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>
<b>Subtotal</b> .....	<b><u>241,734</u></b>	<b><u>241,734</u></b>	<b><u>246,098</u></b>	<b><u>248,988</u></b>
<b>Special Research Grants:</b>				
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>
<b>Subtotal</b> .....	<b><u>112,214</u></b>	<b><u>18,347</u></b>	<b><u>118,275</u></b>	<b><u>119,240</u></b>
<b>National Research Initiative Competitive Grants</b>	<b>120,452</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>163,986</b>
<b>Other Research:</b>				
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>
<b>Subtotal</b> .....	<b><u>40,814</u></b>	<b><u>25,037</u></b>	<b><u>48,048</u></b>	<b><u>50,005</u></b>
<b>Higher Education:</b>				
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	3,492	4,500	3,500
Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program.....	1,549	1,549	1,700	1,700
Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund.....	7,100	7,100	9,000	7,100
Interest Earned on the Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund.....	1,487	2,232 c/	2,232 c/	2,232 c/
Secondary/2-Year Post Secondary.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Alaska Native-serving and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions.....	<u>2,997</u>	<u>2,997</u>	<u>2,997</u>	<u>3,500</u>
<b>Subtotal</b> .....	<b><u>35,435</u></b>	<b><u>37,847</u></b>	<b><u>41,427</u></b>	<b><u>38,842</u></b>
<b>Total, Research and Education Activities</b> .....	<b>550,649</b>	<b>562,965</b>	<b>583,848</b>	<b>621,061</b>

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
<b>Integrated Activities</b>				
<b>Section 406 Legislative Authority:</b>				
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
<b>Subtotal .....</b>	<b>42,853</b>	<b>41,852</b>	<b>44,855</b>	<b>46,205</b>
<b>Other Legislative Authorities:</b>				
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
<b>Subtotal .....</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,013</b>	<b>3,013</b>	<b>62,013</b>
<b>Total, Integrated Activities .....</b>	<b>42,853</b>	<b>44,865</b>	<b>47,868</b>	<b>108,218</b>
<b>Extension Activities</b>				
<b>Base Programs:</b>				
Smith-Lever Formula 3(b)&(c) .....	\$275,940	\$275,940	\$277,000	\$284,218
1890 Institutions .....	31,181	31,181	32,000	32,117
<b>Subtotal .....</b>	<b>307,121</b>	<b>307,121</b>	<b>309,000</b>	<b>316,335</b>
<b>Smith-Lever 3(d) Programs:</b>				
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
<b>Subtotal .....</b>	<b>91,254</b>	<b>84,093</b>	<b>90,851</b>	<b>90,551</b>
<b>Other Extension Programs:</b>				
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/
<b>Subtotal .....</b>	<b>49,098</b>	<b>29,821</b>	<b>41,970</b>	<b>52,057</b>
<b>Total, Extension Activities .....</b>	<b>447,473</b>	<b>421,035</b>	<b>441,821</b>	<b>458,943</b>
<b>Total, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service .....</b>	<b>1,040,975</b>	<b>1,028,865</b>	<b>1,073,537</b>	<b>1,188,222</b>

**Homeland Security Documents Available on Web.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has developed a document to respond to numerous inquiries about how to plan and implement appropriate emergency responses in the event of biological or chemical attacks.

This information may also be helpful to land-grant university personnel in responding to inquiries. See web site [www.foh.dhhs.gov](http://www.foh.dhhs.gov) to access this document. Additional information on preparedness for terrorist attacks and other disasters is available on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website at [www.fema.gov/pte/gaheop.htm](http://www.fema.gov/pte/gaheop.htm).

EPA has a web site with information about counter terrorism resources. The Agency's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office (CEPPO) developed the site. This information is posted at: [www.epa.gov/swercepp/cntr-ter.html](http://www.epa.gov/swercepp/cntr-ter.html).

**Invasive Species Plan & Website Available.** The National Invasive Species Council's Management Plan is available at [www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov). This plan is a product of ten cabinet level council members that 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 aforementioned web site also gives up-to-date information on a variety of invasive species issues.

### **CSREES Program Activity**

**CSREES Administrator Shares E-Grant Vision with University Administrators.** On April 24, CSREES Administrator Colien Hefferan sent a memo to "Presidents of Universities and Colleges and Heads of other Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service Grantee Organizations" regarding CSREES' plans for electronic grant applications. Below is the text of that memo:

For a number of years, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) has been working internally and with our partners in a number of forums to streamline and simplify business processes associated with the application for, receipt of, and management of grants. Some results of these activities include standardized, simplified, and more flexible terms and conditions and the recent consolidation of a number of agency application kits into the new Application Forms package.

After several years of CSREES participation in the Inter-Agency Electronic Grants Committee (IAEGC, [www.iaegc.gov](http://www.iaegc.gov)) and more recently in the Federal Grants Streamlining Program (FGSP, [www.cfoc.gov](http://www.cfoc.gov)), and observing the success of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Fastlane electronic application system ([www.fastlane.nsf.gov](http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov)), the time has come for CSREES to commit to electronic grants. CSREES will not create its own electronic grants system to achieve this goal, but instead will utilize the common Federal electronic application and reporting system that originated in the IAEGC as the Federal Commons (more fully described on the IAEGC web site) and recently was redesignated by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as its e-Grants initiative resulting from its greater "Quicksilver" e-Government task force ([egov.gov](http://egov.gov)). I believe this decision is consistent with the requirements of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act (P.L. 106-107) and the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (P.L. 105-277).

CSREES intends to begin a phased implementation of e-Grants with the fiscal year (FY) 2004 proposal cycle. Programs selected for early implementation will require that all proposals submitted to them be done so electronically through the Federal e-Grants system. All ensuing awards from these programs will be transmitted to recipients through the Federal e-Grants system. CSREES anticipates that by FY 2005, all proposal and grant transactions between the agency and its partners will be done electronically through the Federal e-Grants system.

While I believe that this is a challenging goal for both CSREES and its partners, I also believe that we can work together to achieve it and realize the significant benefits for all parties of e-grants. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Dr. Robert MacDonald at [rmacdonald@reeusda.gov](mailto:rmacdonald@reeusda.gov).

Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator

**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>)

**IPM Stakeholder Forum Held in February.** On February 21 and 22, a stakeholder meeting was held to obtain insight and perspective on pest management needs, priorities, and direction setting for federal pest management programs.

The forum focused on four principal issues:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Structure, administration, and funding of the federal pest management program,</li><li>2) Pest management research priorities and objectives,</li><li>3) Implementation and outreach efforts, and</li><li>4) Impact and accomplishment measurement.</li></ol> |
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The forum was held as part of a response to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO). The GAO report, "Agricultural Pesticides: Management Improvements Needed to Further Promote Integrated Pest Management," GAO-01-815 is available online at GAO's web site ([www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov)). The stakeholders expressed a desire to help formulate the meeting's published results. These results will be made available as soon as this process is complete.

**National IPM Symposium Scheduled.** The 4<sup>th</sup> National Integrated Pest Management Symposium has been scheduled for 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 when made available.

**CSREES Personnel Tour Minority Operated Farms.** From July 22 to July 31, personnel from multiple areas of CSREES participated in a minority farm tour organized by the Service's Plant & 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.

**PSEP Coordinators Share Success Stories with DC Staff.** On April 24, Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) Coordinators presented high points and success stories from their state-level programs to federal government staff in three separate briefings. Briefings took place at the CSREES Waterfront Centre, in Crystal City, and on Capitol Hill.

PSEP is a program that has strong links to both CSREES and EPA. Traditionally, the program has delivered training to private and commercial pesticide applicators. More recently, PSEP coordinators have been addressing larger audiences with connections to invasive species issues, farm worker safety, Master Gardener Programs, school IPM policy, consumer safety education, and many others. The three PSEP coordinators who gave presentations were: Dr. Christina DiFonzo, Michigan State University; Dr. George Hamilton, Rutgers University; and Dr. Don Renchie, Texas A & M University.

**Southern Region PSEC Workshop.** Southern Region Pesticide Safety Education Center (SRPSEC) held an educational workshop on March 18-20 at the Jane S. McKimmon Center in Raleigh, NC. It was the third such workshop sponsored by the SRPSEC. The Center's goal is to improve pesticide safety education by providing new methods and materials to pesticide application trainers. Video excerpts from the session can be viewed at: <http://ipm.ncsu.edu/srpsec/promo/index.html>. The Center's coordinator, Bob McRacken, is currently planning a fourth session in October 2002.

**IR-4 Crop Grouping Symposium.** The inter-regional research project number four (IR-4) has announced a crop grouping symposium scheduled for October 7 and 8, 2002. IR-4 is sponsoring 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>. An annual meeting for IR-4 personnel will be held on October 9 and 10.

**Southern Region SARE to Host Rolling Conference.** "On The Road to Sustainable Agriculture – A Rolling Conference" will be hosted by the Southern Region Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE) program from October 23 to October 26 in and around Raleigh-Durham, NC. The goal of the rolling conference is to give farmers, ranchers, and sustainable agricultural professionals an on-site look at practices, ideas, and SARE-funded research to bring back to farms, communities, and colleagues. While the conference will highlight the southern region, it also will give participants from other regions a southern perspective on issues in their area.

Based at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Research Triangle Park, Durham, NC, the conference will roll through farms, markets, and research stations on comfortable chartered busses. There will also be outstanding speakers during opening and closing sessions at the convention center. For more information, contact the Southern Region SARE office at 770-412-4787 or go to <http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu/sare/otr/savedate.pdf> on the World Wide Web.

**Pest Management Centers Break the 500 Crop Profile Mark.** Pest Management Centers recently made the 500<sup>th</sup> crop profile available on a cooperatively constructed and managed web site ([www.pmcenters.org](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 over two 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.

**National Research Initiative RFA and Fall/Winter Deadlines.** The National Research Initiative has released its Request for Applications for FY 2003. It is available at: <http://www.reeusda.gov/nri/programs/programs.htm>.

The purpose of the NRI is to support high priority fundamental and mission-linked research of importance in the biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, and the environment. Because of the complexity of many agricultural problems, research on those problems is often best accomplished using a multidisciplinary approach. The NRI recognizes the need for this approach and encourages multidisciplinary research.

The following program area proposals are due on these respective dates:

October 1, 2002 -- Plant Responses to the Environment, Improving Human Nutrition for Optimal Health, Plant Genome, Plant Genetic Mechanisms

November 1, 2002 -- Managed Ecosystems, Soils & Soil Biology, Watershed Processes & Water Resources, Entomology & Nematology, Biology of Plant-Microbe Associations, Food Characterization/Process/Product Research, Non-Food Characterization/Process/Product Research

December 1, 2002 -- Food Safety, Epidemiological Approaches to Food Safety, Animal Reproduction, Animal Health & Well-Being, Biology of Weedy & Invasive Plants, Plant Growth & Development, Plant Biochemistry, Markets & Trade, Rural Development, Improved Utilization of Wood & Wood Fiber

January 15, 2003 -- Animal Growth & Nutrition Utilization, Animal Genome & Genetic Mechanisms, Animal Genome: Basic Reagents & Tools, Biologically Based Pest Management  
More information can be obtained at NRI's web site at: <http://www.reeusda.gov/nri>.

**Canada Creates a Minor Use Program Similar to IR-4.** The Government of Canada 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 constructing a system similar to the U.S. IR-4 Project, and it 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 barriers. For more information, contact Al Tomlin (AAFC) at: 613-759-7833 or Richard Aucoin (PMRA) at: 613-736-3780.

**SARE Grant Sponsors Organic Conference.** A Sustainable Agriculture Research and Development (SARE) grant is sponsoring a professional development conference September

26-27 in Kerhonkson, NY, titled: *“Working With Organic Farmers Conference: Enhancing Agency Involvement in the Northeast.”* The purpose of the conference: to help agency personnel improve their knowledge and understanding of organic farming so they can develop programs for organic farmers.

Registration information is available at:

<http://pronewengland.org/Content/RegionNews/OrganicConf09-02.htm>.

**Published Chemical Use Data Available on New Web Site.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture'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 US 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 homepage 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.

#### **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>

North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) – December 2-5 (**WHAT YEAR???**), Hyatt-Regency Union Station, St. Louis, MO <http://www.ncwss.org>

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>

Entomological Society of America (ESA) – November 17-21, 2002, Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL – <http://www.entsoc.org>.

## Agency Personnel Update

### **Three CSREES PAS Scientists Participate in Embassy Science Fellowship Program.**

Three scientists from CSREES' Plant and Animal Systems (PAS) Unit have accepted temporary postings at U.S. embassies in Germany, Costa Rica, and Greece as a part of the Embassy Science Fellows Program.

Begun two years ago as a State Department and National Science Foundation (NSF) partnership, the Embassy Science Fellows Program places U.S. Government scientists and technical experts at U.S. Embassies for limited periods to provide requested scientific expertise, advice, and technical or project assistance to host countries on science and technology-related issues.

Ann Marie Thro is assigned to the U. S. Consul General in Munich from late September to late October, 2002. Her assignment is to support Mission Germany's interaction with regional public and private agricultural biotechnology research, and with the German public concerning biotechnology issues. Munich is a center for biotechnology research in Germany.

Richard Hegg is assigned to Athens, Greece from mid-September to Mid-October. His assignment is to work with water resources and environmental issues related to agriculture.

Kitty Cardwell was posted in San Jose, Costa Rica, throughout August, 2002. She cooperated on biotechnology issues with the Costa Rican National Technical Commission on Biosafety, consulted with the Costa Rican National Biodiversity Institute, and assisted the Center for Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Costa Rica.

### **Plant Science staff appointments over the past 12 months:**

**Ralph Otto appointed to head Plant and Animal Systems Unit.** Dr. 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. Dr. Otto has been in this position since March 2002.

From 1995 through the beginning of 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.

Dr. 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 served on the steering committee that planned the structure of CSREES.

**Plant Section Program Specialist hired.** Bill Hoffman joined the plant systems team as a Program Specialist in late January 2002. His previous position was working as a pest management specialist at Pennsylvania State University and providing 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.

**National Program Leader for Bio-Based Pest Management hired.** Dr. Robert M. Nowierski joined the plant systems team in mid-January 2002 as the new National Program Leader for Bio-Based Pest Management. In this capacity he provides national leadership for the overall planning, development, organization, and management of research and extension programs concerning applied ecology, biological control, and invasive species. In addition, Dr. Nowierski will administer the CSREES Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program (RAMP), a federal grants program which supports long-term efforts to develop reduced risk pest management strategies for cropping systems or agro ecosystems on a multi-state or regional scale. RAMP provides support for these projects as part of a national effort to eliminate or minimize pesticide residues of concern on foods, in drinking water, and in the environment. Dr. Nowierski previously served as Professor of Entomology at Montana State University-Bozeman, where his research and teaching focused on the biological control of rangeland weeds, insect/plant ecology, and population modeling. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Idaho-Moscow, and Ph.D. from the University of California-Berkeley.

Dr. Nowierski served as Chairman of ESA Subsection Ca (Biological Control) in 2001. He currently serves on the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy – Working Group on Biological Control (ESCOP-WGBC), and is a member of the Editorial Board for the journal *Biological Control: Theory and Applications in Pest Management*.

**National Program Leader for Plant Pathology hired.** Dr. Kitty Cardwell joined the plant systems team as the National Program Leader for Plant Pathology in November 2001. Dr. Cardwell came to CSREES from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), based in Nigeria and Benin. At IITA, she served for more than 10 years as Tropical Maize Pathologist. During that time, she organized and implemented a successful IPM program to control a major new disease threat to small farmers' food security in West Africa. She also trained numerous graduate students in collaboration with colleagues at universities in the USA and Europe.

**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
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 "@reusda.gov". Example: whoffman@reusda.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<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> St., S.W.  
 Washington, DC 20024

**Sending Mail to CSREES.** Although the CSREES was not the target of any anthrax-tainted mail, our office has seen the resulting ripple effects of the Washington, DC mail slowdown. If you need to send us an important, time-sensitive document, use the express mail carrier of your choice.

CSREES Plant Science Web Sites:  
 Plant & Animal Systems Unit:  
 Pest Management Program Index:

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