



April 2004

From Our Director, Dr. Ron Stinner

With the introduction of the first issue of the Southern Region IPM Center Newsletter, I wanted to introduce myself to those who might not know me, with a little of my background and what you can expect in dealing with the Southern Region Integrated Pest Management Center (SRIPMC). My background is in Entomology, (Ph.D. UC Berkeley with Carl Huffaker and Bob van den Bosch, 1970), that means I'm old. I spent many years working in modeling and systems analysis until 1993 when I was named the director of the National Science Foundation Center for IPM here at NCSU. In that role, I worked to develop partnerships among industry, government and land-grant universities throughout the US.

Now, as director of the Southern Region IPM Center, I look upon my major role as facilitating the continued development of partnerships through the Center committees, establishment of regional priorities, and funding of projects that foster IPM regionally. I believe strongly in the need to communicate among diverse stakeholders, and encourage you to bring your ideas to the Center. I will respond to all questions and requests as rapidly as possible, and I'm happy to meet with any of you to discuss the issues you feel are important for the Center to address.



What To Expect...

A monthly publication, the Southern Region IPM Center Newsletter will contain standard sections in each edition. Every month we will highlight a project that a state in the Southern Region is implementing to manage and educate individuals and organizations on the importance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). These projects are grant funded by the Southern Region IPM Center and demonstrate ways IPM is useful in everyone's lives.

In addition to highlighting a state project, we will select and profile one individual making a difference in IPM. This individual may be an IPM coordinator, university researcher or professor, state contact, member of the Steering Committee or Advisory Council, or another influential person.

On the back page of every edition we will have an "In the States" section. This section will contain news and events, such as promotions and changes in administration, pest alerts and crop profiles, and grants received that are pertinent to specific states in the Southern Region. Please contact Jennifer Hodorowicz if any of these events occur in your state.

Aside from the set sections, we will include articles on recent meetings, opportunities to receive funding, information about our Steering Committee and Advisory Council and its members, deadline information, success stories and any other events or important information pertaining to the Southern Region.

Being a new publication, we are open to any questions or comments, and welcome any news or success story suggestions. Please contact Jennifer Hodorowicz at jmhodoro@ncsu.edu or 919-424-4410 with inquires or ideas.

Center RFA For 2004 Announced

The Southern Region IPM Center is pleased to announce its first Request for Applications. Application deadline is April 30, 2004. We apologize for the quick turnaround, but we would like to have awards in place by July 1, 2004. The RFA has three (3) programmatic areas: State Contacts, Crop Profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans, and Special Projects. Funding is open to all organizations in the Southern Region.

Visit http://www.sripmc.org/Funding/SRIPMC_RFA2004.pdf to view the full RFA.

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Raleigh IPM Coordinator Meetings

During the week of February 23, 2004, the Southern Region IPM Center (SRIPMC) hosted two groups of meetings in Raleigh, NC. Regional IPM Center directors and Southern State IPM coordinators met with EPA, CSREES and others to discuss agenda items including, but not limited to: IPM Roadmap evaluation goals, current programs and projects with which each Center is involved, pest alerts, pre-proposals, and collaboration efforts with NPDN.

The first set of meetings began Tuesday, with the Regional Center IT leaders meeting to discuss current regional websites and database management, particularly the PMSP database. In addition to updates and maintenance items discussed, members also examined a possible new web design for the regional and national sites following a model set in place by the Northeastern Center.

Wednesday was a full day of meetings consisting of federal representatives and center personnel including: Ron Stinner, director, Steve Toth, associate director Southern Region; James VanKirk and John Ayers, directors Northeastern Region; Larry Olsen and Michael Gray, co-directors North Central Region; and Rick Melnicoe, director, Tom Holtzer, co-director and Linda Herbst, assistant director Western Region. After the meetings on Wednesday, participants enjoyed a catered reception with a pasta bar, appetizers and assorted beverages. The reception gave members the opportunity to interact on a more personal level after a complete day of meetings.

The second set of meetings started Thursday with state and university representatives discussing changes and transitions within the regional centers as well as receiving updates of the latest news and happenings with each center. In addition, representatives from CSREES went through the IPM evaluation and reporting program they have set in place for the upcoming year. The meetings wrapped up on Friday morning with State IPM coordinators meeting to discuss what the future holds for the Southern Region.

The meetings were a success, allowing the four regions to come together in Raleigh to be introduced to North Carolina State University and the new processes of the SRIPMC. It also gave IPM coordinators the chance to get together and discuss the latest news out of Washington and each state.

Profile: D. Ames Herbert, Jr., Ph.D.

Dr. Ames Herbert, State IPM Coordinator and Extension Project Leader for the Department of Entomology at Virginia Tech, is also the lead entomologist for soybeans, small grains, peanuts and cotton for Virginia Tech and the state of Virginia. Getting his start with a bachelor's in biology, Herbert began his masters program at Northern Arizona University before realizing that he wanted to work with growers to help them solve their ever emerging crop problems. Soon after, he transferred to Auburn University, where he received his master's and Ph.D. in entomology. After graduation he joined the Virginia Tech staff as an assistant professor and lead entomologist for the soybean and small grain crops. Since then he has added peanuts and cotton, making him the only one in the state of Virginia that works on the insect pests of these major field crops.

At Virginia Tech, Herbert has developed and established many programs and systems, such as a results-based program that improves pest management systems for insect pests of soybean, peanut, cotton and small grains that reduces reliance on pesticides while maintaining crop quality and profitability. In addition to his role as professor of entomology at Virginia Tech and State IPM Coordinator for Virginia, he is the Extension Project Leader with the Department of Entomology and serves as a liaison between the entomology faculty and the Extension administration.

Herbert heads the entomology field research program at the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center, with research specialists and graduate students working under his supervision. At any given time, the Tidewater center is involved with 20 to 30 insect pest research projects with hundreds of test plots. Also, his team conducts research across the region wherever pests occur, as well as statewide pest surveys. By using this statewide approach, they are prepared to face any problem that may be encountered across Virginia, and are able to keep growers alerted to pending problems.

Herbert has been the IPM coordinator for the state of Virginia since 1997, working with neighboring states, such as North Carolina, Maryland and Delaware, who share in many of the same pest problems as Virginia. As Extension Project Leader, he is also involved with many college and university activities, making numerous campus visits throughout the year, and serves as a reviewer for all extension publications and web offerings dealing with IPM or entomology. Herbert is involved with various multi-state regional projects involving soybeans, peanuts and IPM. He is also a member of the Entomology Society of America and is a member of the Steering Committee and the chairman of the Advisory Council for the Southern Region IPM Center.

Dr. Ames Herbert can be reached at Herbert@vt.edu or (757) 657-6450 ext. 122.



Herbert (pictured left) evaluates thrips injury rating on a peanut crop with a colleague.

"When working in IPM you need to have a type of "SWAT" team approach, you have to be ready to tackle the next large problem wherever it might occur with very little notice."
- Dr. Ames Herbert



Ron Stinner, director of the Southern Region, greets Jimo Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Southern Region Steering Committee, at the Wednesday night reception.



Shani File, regional IPM facilitator for the Southern Region, Joyce Strand, webmaster in the Western Region, and others enjoy drinks, food and good conversation.

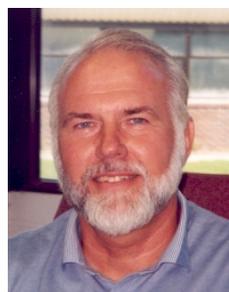
Advisory Council

The council, consisting of 25-40 members, meets semi-annually to determine general policies for Center operation; determine needs and set general priorities for programs based on surveys and other data based on stakeholder opinion; suggest new/innovative focus areas for center activities; and help develop and promote interaction with stakeholder organizations. The Council also appoints both standing (e.g., Commodity Working Groups) and ad-hoc sub-committees (e.g., EPA "targets" Focus Groups) as needed. The Advisory Council develops, at least annually, a prioritized list of regional needs and recommendations for research/extension programs to meet these needs. Such lists will be provided to CSREES and all Funding Panels operating within the SRIPMC. Where appropriate, the Advisory Council recommends specific needs for funding with core SRIPMC funds.



"I truly believe in IPM. I feel it is the right approach to managing pests in the most economical and environmentally sound way. The Advisory Council aids in this process, providing stakeholders with a way to influence the IPM programs being implemented in their region. By having diversity on the Council and encouraging input, it is more likely that the right projects will be done for the right reasons across the Southern Region."

Chairman
Ames Herbert,
Virginia Tech University



"Integrated pest management (IPM), the multi-tactic approach to managing pests and diseases of plants and animals, is critically important because it offers sustainable long-term management, rather than the single tactic of repeated chemical pesticide application."

Vice chairman
Norm Leppla,
University of Florida

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of approximately twelve voting members and ten non-voting members and meets semi-annually. The Steering Committee provides guidance for executive decisions and administrative management, determines how to implement policies from Advisory Council, and determines the application of priorities to Center efforts through the selection of activities that promote the focus areas recommended by the Advisory Council.



"Growers practicing IPM on rural landscapes, urban pest managers who employ IPM techniques, and absentee landowners who encourage IPM, share a concern for natural resource conservation that benefits both rural and urban communities."

Chairman
John Anderson,
Monsanto



"At NC A&T we work with small scale farmers, teaching them to scout for insects and giving them options, such as spot spraying. By working with them to implement IPM processes we can save them time, money, energy and we can help protect them and the environment."

Vice chairman
Jimo Ibrahim,
NC A&T University

The initial committee members have been selected to provide expertise from universities (extension, research and teaching; 1862 and 1890 institutions), growers (individuals, state and national organizations), agricultural and ecological non-profit associations, industry (agrochemical, biotechnology, food processing, PCO), specific federal programs (e.g., IR-4), and a wide array of state and federal agencies.

Members

Advisory Council

Chairman: Ames Herbert

Vice chairman: Norm Leppla

Name

John Aselage
 Bob Bellinger
 David Boethel
 Pat Bolin
 Mike Connell
 Jim Craig
 Jennifer Curtis
 Larry Elworth
 Tom Fuchs
 Ames Herbert
 Sarah Hoffman
 Clayton Hollier
 Rodney Holloway
 Jim Horne
 Doug Johnson
 David Kaplan
 Norm Leppla
 Gus Lorenz
 Mark Mossler
 Steve Muench
 Mary Muth
 Scott Pfister
 Lowell Sandell
 Earl Tryon
 Mike Weaver
 Debby Wechsler

Affiliation

Gerber
 PM Center State Contact
 SR ESCOP/ECOP IPM Committee
 State IPM Coordinator
 PCO Representative
 Crop Data Management Systems
 Curtis Consulting
 Center for Ag Partnerships
 State IPM Coordinator
 State IPM Coordinator
 Statistics Division
 State IPM Coordinator
 PM Center State Contact
 Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture
 PM Center State Contact
 USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 State IPM Coordinator
 State IPM Coordinator
 PM Center State Contact
 United Soybean Board
 RTI International
 National Plant Board
 PM Center State Contact
 National AG Consulting Services, Inc.
 PM Center State Contact
 NC Strawberry Association

Steering Council

Chairman: John Anderson

Vice chairman: Jimo Ibrahim

Name

John Anderson
 Tom Anderson
 John Aselage
 Al Averitt
 Jerry Baron
 Harold Coble
 Mike Fitzner
 Ames Herbert
 Jimo Ibrahim
 Charles Meister
 Steve Muench
 Pat O'Leary
 Ethan Schaffer
 Grayson Schaffer
 Gary Thompson
 Eric Young
 Geoff Zehnder

Affiliation

Monsanto
 Insecticide Resistance Action Committee
 Gerber
 National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
 USDA/IR-4
 USDA/OPMP
 USDA/CSREES
 State IPM Coordinator
 NC A&T University
 USDA/IR-4
 United Soybean Board
 Cotton Incorporated
 Organic Volunteers, Inc.
 Organic Volunteers, Inc.
 Insecticide Resistance Action Committee
 Regional ESCOP/ECOP
 SR SARE Representative



Alabama Schools Implement IPM Programs

When you send your child to school you expect them to have the safest learning environment possible. Many don't think, or even know about the hidden dangers posed from pesticide use in schools. This isn't the case anymore in Alabama, where citizen's groups and the government have stepped up efforts to examine the potential and/or perceived impact of pesticide use in schools.

Taking action to make their children's school a better place, parents and educators have teamed up with Auburn University, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries over the past three years to educate schools and citizens on the potential and/or perceived impact of pesticide use. By educating groups and individuals about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs, they are helping reduce the amount of pesticides used in and around schools.

"It is a lot of fun to be part of the program. Each time we catch a pest, we look at what it is, and track it back to where it comes from and then fill in a log or report to our school principal or janitor."
- Alabama student involved with an IPM program

IPM is defined as is an ecologically-based approach to managing pests with an emphasis on natural and cultural control processes and methods, including host plant resistance and biological control. Because the focus is on prevention, exclusion, monitoring and suppression of pests, chemical pesticides are used only where and when the above measures fail to keep pests below damaging levels. All interventions are need-based and are applied in ways that minimize economic, health, and environmental risks.

"Having an IPM program in schools is so important environmentally speaking," said Dr. Xing Ping Hu, project leader from Auburn University. "It is not only important for the environment around us, but we want to protect and provide the safest possible learning environment for the students, teachers and administrators."

The first Alabama IPM in schools program was started in Auburn County in 2002 with three pilot schools adopting the system. Mobile County schools joined efforts the following year adding three additional pilot schools to the program. By following the guidelines set by the Monroe IPM Model, these schools were effectively able to reduce pesticide use and the number of pest problems in their environment. The Monroe IPM Model was created in Monroe County, Indiana in 1996 and is a 22 step process reliant on intensive communication and partnership and based on sound pest management as practiced by national experts.

With the help of Auburn University, schools implemented the Monroe IPM Model by organizing training sessions, workshops and demonstrations; contacting the local news media to alert them of their efforts; planning community events; and producing informational literature pieces. Some of the community events put together included multi-county Earth Days, public health fairs, an Environ-



An educational IPM workshop.

mental Day organized by the Environmental Center in Mobile, and seven school days in Mobile and Prichard. As part of the training and workshop section, individualized sessions were held at participating schools to ensure everyone had the opportunity to get involved in their own way.

"We have different training sessions for different individuals," explains Hu. "We hold workshops for pest control professionals, teachers and principals, parents and students, custodians and Extension professionals. Everyone is involved, it is a team effort, one group of individuals could not do this alone."

Since the program started in Alabama two years ago, many new schools have added IPM programs to their agenda. Currently, the entire Mobile school system has picked up the program with every school actively participating in IPM. To help the program expand and give more schools the opportunity to add IPM programs to their curriculum, Auburn University is working this year with school administrators from three additional school systems to incorporate more schools statewide.

"The school principals have been great in getting the word out to other schools in their system, telling them about the program and the benefits of using IPM, and helping us recruit more schools," said Hu. "When Auburn University started this program we worked mostly with city schools, now we are trying to extend our efforts to more of the rural community."

Not only have principals and administrators been impressed and noticed a difference in their schools with the program, there have been fewer complaints from teachers and students when it comes to pests in the classroom. It has been a great learning experience for students to alternative

ways of pest management by incorporating even the smallest steps, such as not bringing and leaving food in the classroom. Because of the school wide changes, maintenance and custodians find the program is making their jobs easier because there are fewer pests to manage.



A student asks questions about possible school pests, including snakes, at the School IPM booth on Environmental Day.

Other efforts that have been taken to inform the public about the campaign include a literature campaign created consisting of 22 publications relating to IPM. State-wide, numerous training sessions, workshops and demonstrations were conducted by project team members. By working together with radio, television and newspapers the message is getting out there, with thousands of residents, pest management professionals, Extension agents and Extension clients hearing the message of IPM.

Thus far, 20 schools in the Mobile school district have or are in the process of adopting IPM practices. This includes the three pilot schools established by the project itself, 11 schools assisted by trained Extension agents, and six schools claimed by pest control professionals.

There is a documented 90 percent reduction in the use of pesticides in the Auburn City schools involved and a 50 percent reduction in the Mobile pilot schools. (continued on page 6)

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Also, there is a similar reduction in the degree of pest problems.

Not only have these efforts reached schools in Alabama, an Extension agent from Louisiana drove to Mobile and participated in one of the training sessions and has been using the Alabama program as an example to promote IPM in Louisiana schools. As a result of the great strides made, the Alabama School and Community IPM Project received Awards for Excellence from both the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the National

Foundation for IPM Education for development of a Model IPM System in 2003.

“Because of the IPM program Auburn University has started in Alabama, the public is aware of IPM, they are more interested in doing IPM, and as a result, everyone impacted by IPM is enjoying the benefits of participating,” said Hu. “On a personal level, as an Extension specialist and urban entomologist, it is a good feeling knowing that I am able to give back to the children of my community and the environment.”

Through all the hard work put forward by parents, students, school administrators, Auburn University, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, they are reaching their ultimate goal, to make Alabama a better place for thousands of children to live and learn.

If you would like more information about the program, or if you have any questions, please contact Dr. Xing Ping Hu at xhu@acesag.auburn.edu or (334) 844-6392.



Students and parents visit a School IPM display at the Public Health Fair.

Gerber Baby Food - Safe for Your Family

For over 75 years, parents have trusted Gerber® to help them raise, happy, healthy babies, and it is a trust Gerber works hard to earn. Touting an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that includes a strenuous scouting program, grant awarded research programs and organic crop options; Gerber ensures their baby food is the safest it can be for your baby.

Founded in 1928 on the production lines of the Fremont Canning Company in Fremont, Michigan, Gerber has grown throughout the years, with nearly 190 food products labeled in 16 languages and distributed to 80 countries. With the addition of their Tender Harvest™ line in 1997, Gerber introduced a new concept of baby food made with specially selected organic fruits, vegetables and grains.

John Aselage, member of the Advisory Council and Steering Committee with the Southern Region IPM Center, works with Gerber purchasing fresh organic produce for their Tender Harvest line, some of which is purchased in the Southeastern region. In addition, he works with IPM and research programs for crops such as apples, peaches and sweet potatoes to supply the Fort Smith, Arkansas plant.

“Gerber feels IPM is a good system, it works well and growers like it. Because of who uses our baby food we want it to be produced as safe as possible, we don’t want unnecessary insecticides and pesticides used,” said Aselage. “One of the ways Gerber ensures the safest product possible is by requiring growers to employ field scouts for certain crops, such as apples and peaches. These scouts go out into the fields once a week and determine the pest pressure and if there is a need to spray or implement a new program. Scouting programs help growers save money, safeguard their crops and keep them aware of what is going on in their fields.”

As a member of the Advisory Council and Steering Committee representing Gerber, and as a fruit farmer himself, Aselage is able to bring a different perspective to the Southern Region meetings.

“Because I work with a company where IPM is big part of what we do in terms of our crop production, and because I work with the organic program I am able to see things from a side that many others do not. Not only do I have the advantage of working with Gerber, I also implement IPM processes on my own farm, so I am able to see things from a very broad point of view,” said Aselage.

With Aselage’s recommendations and the assistance of IPM centers around the country, Gerber implements the best IPM procedures to provide their customers with the safest baby food possible.

Mark Your Calendars!

The upcoming Steering Committee and Advisory Council joint meetings will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina on April 29th, with the Steering Committee meeting separately on April 30th. Agenda information will be available on the SRIPMC website at www.sripmc.org, or contact Ron Stinner for further details.

