



Director's Notes

There is a lot going on in the realm of IPM, with quite a bit of it directly impacting SRIPMC. I'll try to provide a general overview here, but please do not hesitate to call or email us for more detail.



The federal agriculture budget, probably the topic that concerns us the most, may be the one we can affect the least. President Bush's budget proposal calls for elimination of funding for integrated programs under Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA). In addition to water quality and food safety programs, Section 406 also funds IPM Centers, RAMP (Risk Avoidance and Mitigation), CAR (Crops at Risk) and Methyl Bromide Alternatives. If the 406 line is eliminated, some or all of this IPM funding may be shifted to the National Research Initiative (NRI), or to a proposed new competitive line for Agricultural Experiment Stations. Of course our main concern is that core funding for IPM continue at all. Beyond that, movement to different lines increases the possibility of raising the limit on indirect costs. The current limit that host institutions can charge programs like ours is 20 percent. Under the new budget the limit could be as high as 50 percent.

Another very important proposal in the President's budget is a 50 percent cut in Hatch funds to agricultural experiment stations. Although this program does not directly affect IPM Centers, such a cut would likely have a very large impact on all of our partner institutions in the land-grant system.

Aside from the budget concerns, we are currently in the middle of decisions on 3 different IPM grants programs.

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- The Southern Region IPM Regional Grants (S-RIPM) competition is complete. Until all contracts are finalized we are prohibited from announcing the decisions, but I can give an overview. We received 47 proposals from across the region covering a wide array of IPM settings. For the first time in the southern region, proposals were rated by both a relevance panel (is this a project that should be done?) and a technical panel (is this project well-designed?). We were able to recommend funding for 8 projects.
 - Our own "IPM Enhancement" program is in full swing as I type. This is essentially the same program, renamed, as last year's "Center Grants". The deadline for applications is April 1. We are trying an electronic submission process this year for the first time, hoping to reduce paperwork, sorting, and mailing costs.
 - The national Pest Management Alternatives Program (PMAP) has instituted a regional component this year. Proposals are required to address priorities that were submitted by IPM Centers for each region. In the next couple of weeks a regional panel will review and rate relevance statements for a number of proposals addressing southern region issues. Our ratings will be submitted along with similar ratings from other regions to a national panel, which will rate proposals for technical merit and make funding recommendations. I expect grant applicants will be informed of funding decisions by USDA/CSREES no later than mid-May.
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Mark Your Calendar

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In addition to all the work with the grants program, I am attending meetings of key partner organizations during the first week of April. First I will speak with AS-RED/SAAESD (the joint meeting of the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors and the Southern Association of Ag. Experiment Station Directors) on April 4. Items of particular concern include the budget issues explained above and finding better ways to engage all

states in our information network. Later that week I will meet with the SERA 003, a planning committee of IPM Coordinators and researchers from across the region. Members of this group are a critically important constituency, and we always hope to strengthen our ability to work together effectively.

On the local front, SRIPMC staff is gearing up for our spring meetings of the Ad-

visory Council and the Steering Committee. These will be preceded by the meeting of the subcommittee tackling strategic planning and priority setting guidelines. We're looking forward to some lively discussion on several issues. These include rotation of membership and leadership, revision of RFAs, and improving the focus of Center efforts.

- Director, Jim VanKirk

Northeastern IPM Center Community and Urban IPM Conference

Jim VanKirk and Jennifer Hodorowicz with the Southern Region IPM Center traveled to Manchester, New Hampshire March 15-16 for the Northeastern IPM Center Community and Urban IPM Conference. Participants from organizations across the country attended the conference, which hosted speakers from a wide range of IPM concentrations.

The first day of the conference commenced with opening remarks from Greg

Baumann with the National Pest Management Association. Following Baumann, Richard Johnstone with IVM Partners presented on IVM and rights-of-way management, Ron Dodson discussed the efforts of Audubon International, and Joseph Heller concluded the first day with a presentation on the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The second day of the conference consisted of numerous breakout sessions covering a wide range of IPM topics. Topics included: Curriculum Development and Implementation; Indoor and Structural IPM; Turf IPM; Landscape IPM; Invasive Species; IPM Application in Vector-Borne Diseases; Issues at the Ag-Urban Interface; Residential IPM Education; School IPM: Issues, Challenges, Future Directions; IPM Outreach Through the Media; and Wildlife IPM.

Exhibits and posters were displayed throughout the conference, with representatives on hand to answer questions and provide additional information about their organization. Some exhibitors included Bell Laboratories, IPM K-12 Education Initiative, New England Pest Management, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, SRIPMC



Numerous organizations had presentation booths with information about their community and urban IPM programs.

and Wellmark International. In addition, evening socials, breakfasts and lunches were offered as a chance for individuals to network and learn more about different aspects of community and urban IPM.

The conference was a success in informing attendees on the wide range of community and urban IPM practices, and facilitating partnerships between the IPM Centers and other organizations. The next Regional IPM Center-sponsored conference is the 2005 Western IPM Center Symposium: "Water, Wildlife, and Pesticides in the West: Pest Management's Contribution to Solving Environmental Problems" held August 31 - September 1 in Portland, Oregon.



SRIPMC presented the poster pictured above at the Northeastern IPM Center Community and Urban IPM Conference.

Call for Program Proposals for the 5th National IPM Symposium

"Delivering on a Promise" is the theme of the 5th National IPM Symposium that will be held April 4-6, 2006 in St. Louis, Missouri. The symposium will open and conclude with sessions focusing on the promise of IPM. The program format will include mini-symposia, workshops, roundtable discussions and poster sessions.

Mini-symposia should have a broad interest with estimated audiences of 150-200 individuals. Workshop sessions will be

more focused with estimated audiences of 25-75 individuals. Roundtable discussions will likely be very topic specific attracting 15-25 individuals. Mini-symposia, workshops and roundtable discussions will each be approximately two hours in duration.

The number of each type of session will be limited, as will the number of accepted posters due to space issues. The program planning committee will review all pro-

posals and try to accommodate as many proposals as possible. Support funds are limited and preference will be given to speakers who would not normally attend the event. Session proposals must be submitted on-line through the website (<http://www.ipmcenters.org/IPMSymposiumV>) by April 15, 2005.

Topic suggestions are welcome. If you have questions regarding the format or development of the program, please contact Margaret Appleby (margaret.appleby@omaf.gov.on.ca or 613-475-5850) or Susan Ratcliffe (sratclif@uiuc.edu or 217-333-9656).



**2005
April**

- Joint Association of Southern Region Extension Directors (ASRED) and Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD) Spring meeting - April 3-6 in Corpus Christi, TX
- Workgroup meetings on Pest Management Strategic Plan for Tomatoes (Delaware, North Carolina, Virginia) - April 5 in Exmore, Virginia
- Workgroup meetings on Pest Management Strategic Plan for Snap Beans (Delaware, North Carolina, Virginia) - April 6 in Exmore, Virginia
- SRIPMC Priorities Subcommittee Meeting - April 19 in Raleigh, NC
- SRIPMC Advisory Council Meeting - April 20 in Raleigh, NC
- SRIPMC Steering Committee Meeting - April 21 in Raleigh, NC

**2005
June**

- IPM Center Directors' Meeting - June 8-9 in Washington, DC

**2005
August**

- 2005 Western IPM Center Symposium: "Water, Wildlife, and Pesticides in the West: Pest Management's Contribution to Solving Environmental Problems" - August 31 - September 1 in Portland, Oregon.

Mark Your Calendar!

April 2005

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

