



August 2004

Director's Notes

August is the time of year when I used to be in the cotton fields under a blistering sun, wishing I was in an air-conditioned office. Now I'm sitting in an air-conditioned office, working on budgets, wishing I could be in the field again.

The annual report for the Center was submitted in July, together with the request for next year's funding (albeit 10 percent less). Mike Fitzner (CSREES) informs us that the 2005 budget is back up to our first year's level, so we're hoping for good news for the third year.

The Center staff is in the process of writing the regional IPM Competitive Grants RFA, based on priorities suggested by the Advisory Council and Steering Committee (committee members, it's still not too late to make priority suggestions). We hope to provide the RFA to CSREES shortly.

Steve Toth and I will be attending the International Congress of Entomology in Brisbane, Australia in 2 weeks. We are presenting a poster on the Regional IPM Centers on behalf of all of the Centers. I will also present a paper on dynamic data-sharing and meet with several scientists from Biosecurity Australia with an interest in data-sharing among trading partners.

The Center welcomes Jim VanKirk this month as our new Associate Director for IPM. Jim will get here just in time for our move to a new location (more next month), so he will be more than busy settling in to a new community and lifestyle (the famous and easy "Southern Living?").

Center staff has also been working with Ames Herbert of Virginia to set up a dynamic website for the Virginia AG Pest Advisory (<http://www.sripmc.org/Virginia/>). The site lets Ames and several colleagues post pest alerts and news, and then it automatically sends weekly emails of the latest news to a list of subscribers. It's easy to use and could be setup for other states and Center cooperating organizations. Contact the Center if you want more information.

-Ron Stinner, Director

PESP

At the April 2004 Advisory Council meeting Glenn Williams, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), gave a presentation on the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program, commonly called PESP. Williams views the Southern Region IPM Center (SRIPMC) and PESP "as natural allies in extending adoption of IPM in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors in the South." In fact, since the April meeting, PESP has established relations with all four regional Centers and the national headquarters at CSREES.

Why does Williams feel they are natural allies? In June 1992, attendees to the National Integrated Pest Management Forum, sponsored in part by EPA, identified a lack of national commitment to IPM as the number one constraint to its further adoption. In response, EPA, USDA and FDA met and pledged in September 1993 to have 75 percent of the US agricultural acreage under IPM by the year 2000 and to reduce the use of pesticides.

One step EPA took toward achieving this goal was to form PESP in 1994. The EPA's Office of Pesticides Programs, working cooperatively with USDA, formed PESP to develop voluntary partnerships with key members of the agriculture and non-agriculture industries to stimulate development and adoption of IPM and to encourage pesticide risk reduction, pollution prevention and environmental stewardship.

"We view these four activities to be interrelated," Williams said, "to be principle mechanisms in the area of pest management for achieving sustainable agriculture, as keys for encouraging development and use of alternative pest management tools and strategies, and in cooperating with USDA to fill the 'IPM toolbox' and reduce risks from pesticides."

"While government regulations reduce pesticide risk, PESP is guided by the principle that the informed voluntary actions of experienced pesticide users reduce risks even further with good tools. And by PESP their experience can find its way to decision-makers at EPA," said Williams.

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Currently PESP has over 160 active, voluntary members, including: the Georgia Peach Council, Glades Crop Care, Duke Power, Texas Pest Management Association, National Pest Managers Association, Department of Defense, Clemson University, Organic Materials Review Institute, IPM Institute of North America, Inc., Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and U.S. Public Health Service. Organizations willing to commit to pesticide risk reduction and act on that commitment are eligible to join PESP, either as Partners or Supporters. Those that use pesticides or represent pesticide users are eligible to become PESP Partners. Organizations that have an interest in the sustainable use of pesticides are eligible to become PESP Supporters.



Glenn Williams walks a field after a recent PESP presentation.

By joining PESP, organizations pledge that environmental stewardship is an integral part of pest control, and they commit to working towards pesticide practices that reduce risk to humans and the environment. Members take a strategic approach to risk reduction and undertake specific, measurable activities towards achieving their risk reduction goals. PESP strategies identify integrated approaches involving pesticide use reduction, precision application, increased reliance upon reduced-risk or safer pesticides, monitoring and scouting, mechanical trapping devices, natural predators, biological pesticides, sanitation, mulch, buffer strips, rotation, etc.

“We work with organizations with a great deal of variability in our strategy,” said Williams. “We start the process determining where a Partner or Supporter is already in adopting IPM and pesticide risk reduction, and we really listen, working with them to tailor a voluntary plan in terms of what they feel they are capable of doing in the year ahead, seeking to make progress year after year.”

Although extramural funds for PESP are modest, it has two competitive grants programs, one currently implemented by the National Foundation for IPM Education, and the other by each of EPA's ten Regional Offices. It currently funds a competitive grant project with IR-4 for biopesticide demonstrations, provides funds to the American Farmland Trust for agriculture demonstrations of reduced risk practices and indicator development, and to the Center for Agricultural Partners for strategies to increase environmental impact of PESP program. Finally, it coordinates the EPA's Strategic Ag Initiative and cooperates with other EPA Offices on the Lawns & Environment Initiative.

For more information about becoming a member of the PESP, visit <http://www.epa.gov/opppbd1/PESP/index.htm> or e-mail pesp.info@epa.gov.

Profile: Glenn Williams

With a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a Masters in English Literature specializing in the impact of evolutionary theory and science on 19th and 20th Century Literature, Glenn Williams was teaching at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, when a fellow professor recommended him to consult for the Laboratory of Environmental Toxicology with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Utilizing his science and English background, Williams assisted post-docs with their publications before accepting a full-time position with the laboratory.

Williams was later recruited to the Office of Pesticide Programs in 1989 to originate the position of Staff Director for the Health Effects Division. When the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division formed in 1994, Glenn was selected to participate in its startup and in the startup of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP). He is currently Sector Leader for government, utility and rights-of-way, and technology transfer programs, and Liaison to several key members in PESP.

As the Sector Lead for utility rights-of-way, Williams helps individuals look for ways to adopt Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) into their business and farming operations. Williams helps individuals adopt IVM strategies to reduce the environmental footprint on rights-of-way, to help stimulate interest in rights-of-ways as wildlife corridors, and to keep an eye on and help monitor endangered and invasive species.

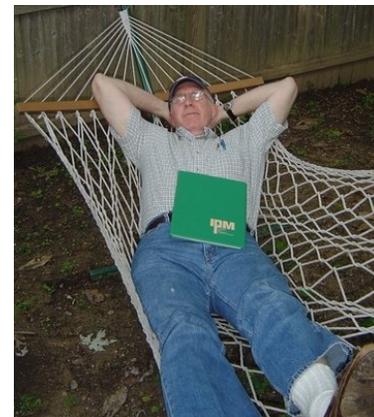
“To me IVM is really IPM applied to utility rights-of-way and looking at ways for rights-of-way to adopt IPM practices,” said Williams. “Working as Sector Lead of the rights-of-way, my vision for the program is a network of wildlife corridors that support habitat for wildlife and vegetation.”

In addition to his rights-of-way responsibilities, Williams is Sector Lead for the technology transfer division of PESP. “The role of the technology transfer division is to try to attract additional members and to facilitate interaction between the members as to what they are doing for Partners. We help promote this interaction through communication information technology exchange, workshops, and other informational programs,” said Williams.

A new addition to the SRIPMC Advisory Council, Williams has already seen positive benefits from attending the April committee meetings in Raleigh, North Carolina. “At the April meetings I met quite a few folks with whom I am working or would like to work,” said Williams. “Moreover, it encouraged me to initiate within our own program outreach to all Regional IPM Centers.”

“I think one of my major goals is to align more closely our respective priorities for research and demonstration projects, seeking opportunities to focus and leverage respective resources to encourage pesticide users to adopt sustainable and economical pest management that benefits, or at least does less adverse impact, the land. Overall we want to move IPM along efficiently and effectively.”

Glenn Williams can be reached at williams.glenn@epamail.epa.gov or (703) 308-8287.



IPM is on always on Glenn Williams's mind, even during a break at a recent strategic planning retreat.

“There are different levels on the IPM continuum that people can achieve, some can go further than others. The idea is to have a conscious decision adopted that considers environmental impact and human health in the decisions that we make and try to be safer.”

-Glenn Williams

CAB International Compendium

CAB International (CABI) is a leading global, non-profit organization whose purpose is the generation, dissemination and use of knowledge in the applied biosciences to enhance development, human welfare and the environment.

To help fulfill their mission of disseminating data and knowledge, CABI has created a set of compendiums or encyclopedic knowledge databases. The CABI compendium are comprised of the Crop Protection Compendium, the Forestry Compendium and the Animal Health and Production Compendium. CABI is currently working on the development of the Aquaculture Compendium. CABI's Compendia are now available online at www.ipmcenters.org/cabi and on CD-ROM.



The purpose of the compendia is to enhance access to knowledge and its application, and hence to support good practice, good management, and good governance through sound decision making, with a special emphasis on science-based decision making.

The Regional IPM Centers and the National Plant Diagnostic Network are making these compendia available to land-grant university faculty and staff, free of charge, (www.ipmcenters.org/cabi) with funding provided by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). All others may subscribe to the publications for a fee after logging on to www.cabi.org/compendia.asp.

For more information please contact Bill Hoffman, CSREES program specialist at whoffman@csrees.usda.gov.

Ball Publishing

In an industry where Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is essential for production, Ball Publishing has featured and included the principles of IPM in its publications for as long as Debbie Hamrick, editor of *FloraCulture International* and manager of trade shows and conferences, can remember.

"IPM is important to the ornamental horticulture industry because our products are sold for their aesthetic value," said Hamrick. "Ornamental pest producers can't let a pest problem run rampant; they constantly have to stay on top of things."

A new member of the Southern Region IPM Center Advisory Council, Ball Publishing was started in 1937 by Vic Ball when he produced *GrowerTalks* to fulfill the need for a culturally credible and usable publication for growers. Started as a pocket-sized guide, *GrowerTalks* has evolved into the only paid publication circulation magazine in the floriculture industry covering bedding plants, potted plants, perennials, plugs, foliage, vegetables, cut flowers and more. A second magazine, *FloraCulture International*, was started by Hamrick in November 1989, and has gained a reputation and circulation among producers of cut flowers, flowering and green potted plants, and garden flowers all over the world. Ball Publishing also publishes *Green Profit* magazine and numerous horticulture books.

"Our magazines publish a lot of pest control articles, and we have a column in every issue of *GrowerTalks* that discusses pest control," said Hamrick. "It has just been a fixture as part of our editorial mix. We don't even talk about IPM anymore because to us it is just pest control, the IPM principles that we learned back in the early 80s."

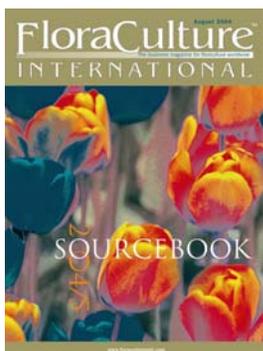
In addition to their publications, Ball Publishing participates in and hosts conferences and trade shows. Every year they sponsor and host one conference that focuses on a topic in the industry that is technical in nature, and organizes seminars and tours about it. Held this year from September 20 through the 23 in Chicago, Illinois, the 2004 International Bedding Plant Production Conference concentrates on bedding plant production and is slated to draw an audience of more than 750 from all over the United States, Canada, and several European, Central American and Asian countries.

"The conference this year has some really great hands on, detailed diagnostic and identification seminars that will last up to three hours," said Hamrick. "We have one for pests and diseases, one for insects and mite pests and another one for biological insect and disease control options."

The seminars will have samples to look at under scopes that will help participants identify life stages of pests and the specific cultural and chemical control measures to target those life stages. In addition, grad students will be on hand to hold lab sessions and discuss current, state of the art information based on pest problems that are running rampant right now. If you would like more information about the conference and how to register visit www.ballpublishing.com/conferences/.

In addition to the conference, Ball Publishing will continue to highlight pest control in its magazines and is scheduled to release its third book about biological controls early next year. This title will be its sixth book about pest control for floricultural producers.

If you would like more information about Ball Publishing you can visit their website at www.ballpublishing.com or contact Debbie Hamrick at dhamrick7@nc.rr.com or (919) 785-0631.



The August covers of *FloraCulture International* and *GrowerTalks* magazines.

