

Northeastern IPM Center Conference



Community and urban settings present special challenges when it comes to managing pests. In our homes, schools, parks, golf courses, roadways, and other public spaces, a growing importance is placed on using low-risk, environmentally sound methods to control insects, diseases, weeds, and wildlife pests. This March, researchers, educators, regulators, and pest managers from across the Northeast will gather to share their insights and expertise on the emerging issues of community and urban integrated pest management (IPM).



The Northeast Regional Community and Urban IPM Conference will be held March 15-16, 2005, in Manchester, New Hampshire. Conference sessions will cover a wide range of topics, including: sound management practices in the urban forest and landscape settings; IPM for structures such as homes, schools, and other buildings; successes and innovations for IPM in turf settings such as parks, athletic fields and golf courses; IPM education and outreach in schools, homes, and throughout communities using a variety of communication techniques; pressures from invasive species in the urban environment; public health issues such as West Nile virus and other vector borne diseases; wildlife control methods within communities; and issues at the agriculture urban interface.

Anyone involved with the management of pests in community and urban settings is encouraged to attend this event. Public educators will be introduced to new techniques in teaching and communication. Research and extension personnel will be able to compare and contrast IPM methods used in urban settings. Practitioners will learn about promising new IPM techniques. All participants can expect to come away with a wealth of new ideas and a fresh perspective on IPM in community and urban settings.



Those who attend this conference, partially sponsored by the Northeastern IPM Center, can participate in panel and group discussions, workshops, and poster sessions, with opportunities to learn about success stories from the field as well as new and promising research and extension work. Some sessions will offer the attendees an opportunity to participate in the development of lists that identify IPM needs in research and extension for community IPM in the Northeast. These lists are used to help direct agencies that fund IPM research and extension. The information and networking opportunities at the meeting will be invaluable for all who are working toward pesticide risk reduction, improving community health and safety, and raising awareness about highly effective, least-risk pest management practices. Recertification credits will be offered.

For more information, visit the conference web site (http://nepmc.org/conference2005_index.cfm) or contact Liz Thomas (315-787-2626 egt3@cornell.edu). Opportunities remain for organizations and businesses to exhibit at the conference, to join the financial sponsors, or to volunteer in conference organization.



IPM Enhancement Grants Program

The IPM Enhancement Grants Program RFA is in the final stages, and is slated to be released within the first half of February. The RFA will have a six week application deadline. More information about the grant and application guidelines will be posted on the SRIPMC website (www.sripmc.org) when available. The IPM Enhancement Grant Program has four project types for which we are seeking applications for funding, and are described in the RFA: (1) State Contact Projects; (2) IPM Documents; (3) Special Projects; and (4) Critical and Emerging Issues.



In this issue:

- 1
Northeastern IPM Center Conference
IPM Enhancement Grants Program
- 2
Center Subcommittees Update
Profile: Clayton Hollier, Ph.D.
- 3
Soybean Rust Training Session in Brazil
- 4
Cotton Incorporated

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Southern Region IPM Center Subcommittees Update



At the recent SRIPMC Advisory Council and Steering Committee meetings three subcommittees were formed to provide input and advice to Center Staff. The Council set a priorities subcommittee, website design subcommittee and a charter subcommittee.

The website subcommittee members include Carrie Harmon, Amy Rhodes, Doug Johnson and Debby Weschler. The website subcommittee is responsible for reviewing and (Continued on page 3...)

Profile: Clayton Hollier, Ph.D.

A professor of plant pathology at Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Clayton Hollier has a split appointment with 75 percent of his time allotted to extension and 25 percent to research. Getting his start in IPM and plant pathology when he was an undergrad working with a local H.J. Heinz research facility, Hollier has extensive experience in both.

“The focus of the Heinz facility that I worked for was cucumber and tomato research and breeding, but they recognized the need for a plant pathologist and hired one while I worked there,” said Hollier. “We became not only good friends, but he was the first person to introduce me to many of the techniques of plant pathology. Through him and my work experience I became a lot more interested in plant pathology than I was in my current educational field of horticulture.”

Hollier went on to complete a Masters in Botany from Delta State University and then received his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Mississippi State University. Hollier received his first IPM appointment in 1996 when he became the state Extension IPM coordinator, but he feels most of his prior work was IPM related.

“We look at management systems, specifically disease management systems,” said Hollier. “I look at anything from the identification of the pathogen to looking at the classical aspects of IPM such as variety selection, site selection, time of planting and fertility practices. These are a wide variety of practices that will not only enhance the growth of the crop but hopefully will also have some negative impact on the pathogen.”

Currently, as the extension IPM coordinator for Louisiana, Hollier is responsible for the pathology educational program for agronomic crops including soybeans, rice, small grains and sugarcane. With the recent discovery of soybean rust in the continental United States at a Louisiana research station, Hollier’s time is consumed with distributing information and training individuals about soybean rust. Within seven days of soybean rust being confirmed, Hollier and colleagues assembled the soybean agents and held a half-day training with information about the pathogen including how it develops and what researchers currently understand about it.

“In response to soybean rust I will perform a few lab, greenhouse and field related tests, but my primary function is education,” said Hollier. “Many people want to hear about soybean rust and we are trying to get the information out to our growers and agents so that they can start recognizing it and know what actions to take. We are continuing to build off the training we’ve been doing with agents and consultants in conjunction with the Southern Plant Disease Network (SPDN).”

In addition to the soybean rust training, Hollier organizes other classes for county agents, master gardeners and students in his area. He teaches the wheat and corn disease sections of a University class that addresses “diseases of economically important crops” as well as other sections for various University classes. In addition, extension pathologists offer classes to county agents to look at practical and applied aspects of plant pathology that the agents can perform within their own locality with limited resources.

One additional program that Hollier is currently involved with through the LSU AgCenter is an IPM mini grants program. The program has a \$3,000 limit per project and is open only to LSU county agents to help address an IPM problem they deal with within the parish. Hollier is very pleased with the responses he received from the local agents and the proposals that were submitted.

Clayton Hollier can be reached at chollier@agcenter.lsu.edu or 225-578-4487.



Clayton Hollier, plant pathology professor at LSU



“All of the disciplines that we work in are not in a vacuum, so we have to look at things with a holistic view, and to me IPM really allows us to do that.”

-Clayton Hollier

Soybean Rust Training Session in Brazil

Jim VanKirk will attend a soybean rust training session in Brazil, South America from February 13th through the 24th. VanKirk, sponsored by CSREES, will represent the four IPM Centers. In addition, the SRIPMC will sponsor Roger Carter, an agriculture consultant from Louisiana. Also attending are Alan Henn, a Mississippi Extension specialist and Carrie Lapaire Harmon representing the Southern Plant Diagnostic Network (SPDN).



Soybean Rust attacks the underside of a soybean leaf.

The agenda for the ten-day information session is full of activities, educational workshops, and field tours. The first day of the tour starts with participants touring Cargill's port facilities. From there, individuals will travel to Dondrina for the soybean rust workshop. The workshop, held at Embrapa, will be conducted by Dr. Jose Tadashi Yorinori, a Brazilian scientist who coordinates Brazil's rust program with Embrapa. Embrapa is an agricultural agency similar to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Soybean Rust Workshop will last a day and a half and will be followed by a tour of the

Mato Grosso Foundation research station. Thursday, the 17th starts with tours of farms in the area that have a plan in place to treat soybean rust on their farms. From there the group will visit the Mato Grosso Foundation for their formal presentation. This privately funded organization produces seed and preforms crop research. One of the many things they are working to develop is a variety of soybeans resistant to rust.

Other activities include a tour of the Maggi Group, the world's largest soybean producer. After the tour, participants fly north to Sorriso and Sinop to walk fields and see firsthand the damage soybean rust can cause. Sorriso and Sinop were the regions most affected by soybean rust in the 2003-2004 season.

The following day includes a trip to visit Maggi's floating port at Itacoatiara, on the Amazon River. For 1000 miles there is not one bridge or lock and dam to hinder the Panamax ships coming upstream from the Atlantic to unload. The rainforest in northern Brazil is at the center of a number of concerns. Environmentalists across the world have the general view that farming in Brazil is a threat to the forest. Soybean growers know that some plants in the forest serve as hosts for soybean rust. To better understand these issues, participants will spend a day and a night at a lodge in the forest.

After the night in the rainforest, the group will travel to Uberlandia, north of Sao Paulo. There the group will dine with the Brazilian general manager for ADM, and the group will have an opportunity to discuss how rust is impacting the soybean processors and exporters in Brazil. The following day consists of a tour of ADM's processing facilities.

The final day of the seminar is a tour of Rio de Janeiro to see famous landmarks, diverse cultures, and gaps between the rich and poor in Brazil.

Illinois Farm Bureau will provide a staff videographer and writer/analyst to document the trip and develop presentation and educational materials. Look for more articles and updates in Illinois Farm Bureau and future editions of Southern Exposure.



Various stages of soybean rust on soybean leaves.

Continued from Page 2...

commenting on the new Center site design. The Center is adopting the design and functionality implemented by the Northeastern IPM Center on their webpage this past summer. Committee members received a test link and are working with Jeanne Bacheler to ensure the website switch will go as smoothly as possible.

The charge of the priorities subcommittee is to examine how the Center develops priorities and recommend a more formal process for doing so. The subcommittee set a working deadline of April 1, 2005 for a first draft of process guidelines and recommendations.

Members of the subcommittee include Larry Elworth, Geoff Zehnder, Jennifer Curtis, Tom Fuchs, Jonathan Edelson, John Anderson, Jimo Ibrahim and Center staff. Members held a conference call on January 13 and determined that a working group day was necessary in order to fully develop recommendations for the Center. The work group day is set for March 22 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Look for more information about recommendations developed from this subcommittee.

The third subcommittee that was formed is the charter subcommittee with members including: Ames Herbert, John Anderson, Norm

Leppla and Steve Hopkins. The subcommittee is responsible for setting guidelines for membership in the SRIPMC Advisory Council and Steering Committee. These guidelines include rotation of leaders and members, time limits and specific roles and responsibilities of the members and leadership. Subcommittee members are drafting a document to circulate to current members by March 8, well before the next Advisory Council and Steering Committee meetings in April.

Profile: Cotton Incorporated



Founded in 1970 as a non-profit company, Cotton Incorporated was created to combat the loss of cotton's market share due to an influx of synthetic fibers. With a mission to "increase the demand for and profitability of cotton through research and promotion," Cotton Incorporated has divisions, including Agricultural Research, that attempt to positively influence all points of the cotton pipeline.

Agricultural Research is one of four divisions providing research, technical services and technology-transfer outreach to U.S. cotton producers and mills. The division serves as a link to the textile industry, cotton producers and the research and extension communities.

Pat O'Leary, senior director of Agricultural Research with Cotton Incorporated and member of the Southern Region IPM Center (SRIPMC) Steering Committee, manages numerous projects that fall under the Agricultural Research umbrella. One research initiative in which O'Leary is currently working seeks to improve the management of stink bugs in cotton. Cotton Incorporated recently implemented a multi-state, southeastern regional stink bug project that will begin the first of April. This regional project joins a similar multi-location project already underway in the mid-south.

For years, O'Leary has been heavily involved with the development, implementation and improvement of COTMAN™, a crop management system based on plant monitoring. Initially created at the University of Arkansas, COTMAN integrates plant-monitoring information, current and long-term weather patterns, and farm/field information to assist the grower or consultant in making more informed decisions related to the management of insects, irrigation, fertilization, growth regulators, defoliation and harvest scheduling. In addition to its on-farm use, researchers are finding COTMAN to be a useful tool to examine and compare treatment differences in various other cotton-related research projects. Cotton Incorporated works with agricultural engineers, agronomist, entomologists, and physiologists from various research organizations to develop and improve decision guidelines used by the program.

With Cotton Incorporated's main focus ultimately being to benefit the cotton grower, the Agricultural Research division focuses on numerous ways to improve production including promoting strong IPM programs.

"We represent the cotton growers, so from an agricultural research standpoint, we need to develop and promote environmentally acceptable practices while maintaining or improving the profitability of cotton production," said O'Leary

Cotton, perhaps more than any single commodity, has been central to the development of IPM as a scientific approach and philosophy of pest control. O'Leary notes that in general cotton growers have accepted IPM programs to a much greater degree than any other commodity. According to an ERS-USDA report, cotton growers use IPM and Economic Thresholds on 92 percent of cotton acreage (Production Practices for Major Crops in U.S. Agriculture, 1990 – 1997)

Through her service on the SRIPMC Steering Committee, O'Leary has gained a better understanding of IPM problems in other commodities, while directing research funding to cotton researchers who constantly work to improve cotton production practices.

"Being a member of the Steering Committee has made me much more aware of problems affecting other commodities," said O'Leary. "It also allows me to maintain a cotton perspective in the RFP process as well as maintaining awareness of potential funding sources for researchers working in cotton, which in turn, ultimately benefits the U.S. cotton growing community."

For more information about Cotton Incorporated visit <http://www.cottoninc.com> or contact Pat O'Leary at POleary@cottoninc.com.

