

Director's Notes

Cue the *High Hopes* music. After 86 years, the Red Sox have finally won the World Series. Even those who root for other teams (like me) can take heart – the unbeatable can be beaten, the unreachable can be reached, the goat *can* knock over that dam. At the Center we have no World Series to win, but we do try to keep plugging along, working hard and trying to work smart to make incremental improvements that in the long run add up to big change.

Our biggest news this month is that the Request for Applications (RFA) for the Regional IPM Grants Program was released. You can find all the details at our web page <http://www.sripmc.org/ripmrfa05>, and Jen provides some background on the program elsewhere in this newsletter. Proposals are due December 15, 2004. Although we prefer to provide an 8-week proposal development period, we opted for a slightly shorter period instead of delaying the whole process to accommodate the holidays.

My trip to Texas earlier this month was both educational and enjoyable. I spent the better part of three days with host Tom Fuchs, IPM Coordinator, and Doug Johnson, Kentucky IPM Coordinator. Tom and Doug spent a lot of time and energy educating me about crops, pests, projects and priorities. At the annual Statewide IPM Technical Committee meeting I learned about various aspects of Texas IPM including the innovative and successful IPM internship program Tom manages. As part of the learning experience, we spent an evening with the executive committee of the Texas Pest Management Association, a group of growers representing each of 23 areas in which Texas IPM Agents are stationed. I must admit that trip highlights included a long drive across a small percentage of Texas, and my first experience with Texas barbecue – it won't be the last!

In response to one conversation with Doug and Tom, we created a quick directory of IPM-related people and projects arranged by state. Jeanne Bacheler did the programming that you can find online at <http://www.sripmc.org/IPMContacts>. Select a state, and a page of links to university, state and federal offices will open. Please send me any additions or corrections for this database.

During the coming month we will be preparing for the Center's annual meeting on December 7 through 9. State contacts and other project leaders will meet on the 7th, the Advisory Council will meet the 8th, and the Steering Committee will meet the 9th. We are preparing the agenda and supporting materials, as well as figuring out logistics for our first meeting at the new facilities.

- Director, Jim VanKirk

We've Moved!

After months of planning and preparation, the Southern Region IPM Center is happy to announce we are in our new office space at 1730 Varsity Drive, Suite 110 on North Carolina State University's Centennial Campus (Pictured right). We are sharing the space with the NSF Center for Integrated Pest Management (CIPM), Eric Young, executive director of the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and Harold Coble, agronomist with the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy. The Center will hold the first joint reception with CIPM and their Industry Advisory Board on November 8. In addition, the Center will host a reception on the evening of December 7 before the Steering Committee and Advisory Council meetings to welcome members and kick off the meeting with a bang. New contact numbers are listed to the right with our main number (919-513-1432), and fax (919-513-1114) remaining the same. We look forward to hosting numerous meetings and welcoming you to our new space over the next few months.



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If you would like to be added to our monthly distribution list please contact Jennifer Hodorowicz.



Calendar Reminder

The next Advisory Council and Steering Committee Meetings will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina on December 8-9, 2004. Look for more information, including an agenda, in your e-mail within the next few weeks.



Profile: Henry Fadamiro, PhD

With a PhD in Entomology from the University of Oxford, U.K., Henry Fadamiro is currently an Assistant Professor of Entomology at Auburn University and the new State IPM Coordinator for Alabama. Starting his career in IPM and entomology in Africa, Fadamiro taught entomology and pest management, and also worked at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria. In addition to teaching, Fadamiro researched the development of host plant resistance and worked with storage IPM concentrating on the storage of grains.

“When I was growing up around farms I realized that insects were a major problem for crops, and that is what led me to entomology,” said Fadamiro. “When I went to school I was lucky to have a professor that was interested in IPM, and he showed me the importance of IPM programs.”

After earning his PhD in 1995, Fadamiro moved to Iowa State University where he worked with their corn IPM program and led projects looking at pheromone mating disruption to control the European corn borer. His research was used in conjunction with BT corn research, using mating disruption to help manage resistance. He also led another project on the use of mating disruption to control blackheaded fireworm in Wisconsin cranberries.

After working with Iowa State University for almost three years, Fadamiro moved to the University of Minnesota where he worked as a Research Associate researching ways to biologically control pests in corn and cabbage. Shortly after, Fadamiro transferred to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture where he started numerous programs that are still in effect today, including the fruit IPM and biological control programs.

One program Fadamiro worked on in Minnesota was a statewide survey program. The Department hired and trained scouts to conduct weekly surveys of corn, soybean and grain crops to monitor the major pests. Each scout was given a laptop so that they could transmit the data back, and Fadamiro would in turn compile the data and publish weekly reports. This program was so successful in the larger field crops that Fadamiro developed a similar system for apple and strawberry growers.

“When I started with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture I discovered there was a lot of information for field crop producers, but not as much for fruit producers,” said Fadamiro. “Fruits are high value crops so they don’t produce as many acres, and they tend to have fewer resources available to them because of this.”

Now at Auburn University, Fadamiro is leading many similar IPM programs and is teaching again.

“IPM has traditionally been considered by many simply as an approach to reduce pesticide use by farmers,” said Fadamiro. “My goal is to work with stakeholders in Alabama to facilitate the adoption of advanced and bio-intensive levels of IPM, which involves reliance on preventive or prophylactic measures to reduce pest population and enhance population of beneficial organisms, and the use of multitactic therapeutic approaches for management of weed, disease, and arthropod pests.”

In addition to entomology, Fadamiro teaches two IPM intensive courses.

“I currently teach two IPM related courses, Economic Entomology at the undergraduate level, and Integrated Pest Management at the graduate level,” said Fadamiro. “My IPM course is really geared to students that want to focus on IPM and we cover landscape, horticulture, fruit, vegetable and field crop IPM.”

In addition to teaching, Fadamiro was recently approved for a grant to support research on the development and implementation of IPM for Satsuma mandarin orange production in Alabama.

“As part of a federally funded Farm to School Program, Satsuma mandarins are being sold to the Alabama school system and served to students in the cafeterias,” said Fadamiro. “We want to make the fruit safer for kids and we want to help these producers implement IPM to make the fruit safer.”

Through his teaching and research, Fadamiro is working to fulfill his goal to continually develop new IPM techniques and train farmers.

“As the IPM coordinator at Auburn University, I intend to work cooperatively with research and extension staff and other stakeholders to set IPM priorities for Alabama, and to coordinate and promote existing and new IPM programs in the state. I intend to be a key advocate for IPM in Alabama,” said Fadamiro.

Henry Fadamiro can be reached at (334) 844-5098 or fadamhy@auburn.edu.



Henry Fadamiro, Assistant Professor of Entomology at Auburn University and the new State IPM Coordinator for Alabama.



“The way I see it, we all have a role to play to adopt IPM practices, from the producers to the consumers.”

- Dr. Henry Fadamiro

Southern Region RIPM RFA Released

The Southern Region IPM Center released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Regional Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program Southern Region. The RFA can be accessed online and is available for download in four formats (HTML, Text-RTF, WordPerfect and PDF) at <http://www.sripmc.org/ripmrfa05>.

Applications must be received by COB on December 15, 2004 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time). Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding.

Organizations eligible to receive research awards are: state agricultural experiment stations, land-grant colleges and universities, research foundations established by land-grant colleges and universities, colleges and universities receiving funds under the Act of October 10, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.), and accredited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine. For research projects, eligible land-grant colleges and universities include all 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions. Eligibility for Extension projects is limited to 1862 land-grant colleges and universities.

In FY 2005, CSREES anticipates the amount available for support of the Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program-Southern Region (S-IPM) will be approximately \$1,030,000. Of this amount, \$760,000 is expected to be available for research projects, \$70,000 for Extension projects, and approximately \$200,000 to support one large-scale joint research-Extension project.

The S-IPM solicits applications to support one, two or three year research or Extension projects, and joint research-Extension projects for one, two or three years.

Research Project

This funding category provides support for evaluation and development of IPM programs. Where possible and appropriate, research should emphasize field-scale experiments that address multiple pests over more than one season or location. Long-term, fundamental research is not appropriate for funding in this category. Research to incorporate non-chemical strategies into pest management systems is encouraged. However, research involving chemical pesticides is permissible if pesticides are one component within an integrated system. Applications that focus solely on the development and evaluation of pesticides will not be considered for funding under this program.

Extension Project

This funding category provides support for the educational outreach efforts that are critical for the implementation of IPM. Projects should provide IPM training and education, field scale or on-farm demonstrations, or develop educational materials and information delivery systems without a required research component.

Joint Research-Extension Project

It is expected that this funding category will support one large-scale project to increase the level of adoption of IPM practices by Southern Region producers in a specified production system. Projects should: 1) provide for reduced reliance on single pest management tactics, such as pesticides or resistant varieties, by developing and implementing new technologies and strategies for managing pests; and 2) provide for reduced risk to the environment and human health, while addressing the economic needs of producers. The ultimate purpose is to provide new IPM systems based on producer-identified needs, and to provide the basis for privatization of IPM systems in a production system or region. Projects must demonstrate multiple-discipline and multiple-state cooperation. Projects must have a strong evaluation component, demonstrating improvements in risk (economic, environmental, and/or human health) between the situation prior to and after the project.

If you have any further questions about the RFA contact Jim VanKirk at jim_vankirk@ncsu.edu or 919-513-8179.

OPP Pesticide Ecotoxicity Database

From EPA: The Ecological Fate and Effects Division of the Office of Pesticide Programs is continuing efforts to develop a database of presently known ecotoxicity endpoints for registered pesticides used in the U.S. Toxicity data on over 660 active ingredients and 761 individual active ingredients, metabolites, and multi-ingredient formulations are presently included in the database. The toxicity data inputted into the data base is compiled from actual studies reviewed by EPA in conjunction with pesticide registration or reregistration and studies performed by USEPA, USDA and USFWS laboratories which have been reviewed by Ecological Effects Branch biologists and judged acceptable for use in the ecological risk assessment process. The database presently contains entries for over 14,500 acute and chronic ecotox studies on terrestrial and aquatic plants, aquatic invertebrates, insects, amphibians, fish, birds, reptiles, and wild mammals. The database is available for download at <http://www.ipmcenters.org/Ecotox/index.cfm>

For further information contact Brian Montague, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (7507C), Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.,20460. Phone:703-305-6438 Fax:703-305-6309 E-mail Address: Montague.Brian@epamail.epa.gov





Hodges and Hart at the NPDN Training at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents



Jim Stack at the NPDN Training at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents



Karen Snover Clift at the NPDN Training at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents



NPDN Training at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents



NPDN Operations Committee

Starting with the Southern Plant Diagnostic Network (SPDN) a year ago, Carrie Harmon, Plant Pathology Coordinator, manages diagnostic and plant pathology issues and is the region's web master. In addition, because the training and education subcommittee for the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) is seated at the University of Florida, Harmon assists with training and education on a national level. With a Masters in Plant Pathology from the Botany and Plant Pathology Department at Purdue University, Harmon worked in the plant and pest diagnostic lab as a graduate student learning hands on clinical diagnostics.

The mission of the network is to "enhance national agricultural security by quickly detecting introduced pests and pathogens." The SPDN works to achieve this goal by i) creating a functional nationwide network of public agricultural institutions, ii) providing means for quick detection and accurate identifications of high consequence, biological pest and pathogen introductions into our agricultural and natural ecosystems and iii) establishing protocols for immediate reporting to appropriate responders and decision makers.

In addition to the mission of the national Network, SPDN's goals are to establish a secure, regional network for the detection and diagnosis of plant health problems; extend and support sound public policies, implement rapid and accurate diagnoses, and response strategies; and provide leadership and training.

A member of the SRIPMC Advisory Council, Harmon hopes that the SPDN and SRIPMC can continue to work together to fulfill their mission and goals by joining efforts on programs in the south.

"The SRIPMC and the SPDN cover almost the same sites, with the exception of Oklahoma (which is not in SPDN's territory)," said Harmon, "and we share a responsibility in protecting agriculture and responding to crop threats, whatever they may be, whether introduced intentionally or naturally."

An example of the SPDN and SRIPMC working together toward a common goal is their joint efforts to educate and inform individuals about soybean rust. The SRIPMC hosted a soybean rust informational meeting in May that was planned by the SPDN. Experts, diagnosticians and researchers from across the country were invited to the meetings that spanned two days. The joint effort was a success with praise received all around from participating individuals. States within the southern region are now putting together response and action plans, based on information received at this meeting.

The Centers are also working together to share education materials and want to learn and build off each others' successes.

"We'd like to bridge our educational material, especially in the southern region, because we house the NPDN Training and Education Sub-committee," said Harmon. "We are really focused on getting the materials out into the hands of the people that need them."

Although the target audiences of the two Centers differ, each group can learn from the joint educational material.

"Typically we work with first detectors, whereas the SRIPMC works to inform individuals about what they need to be good first responders in terms of treatments and cultural practices," said Harmon. "We need to work hand in hand, and luckily we have really started to do that in the southern region."

The SPDN has three main programs they focus on including training first detectors, working with diagnostic clinics, and establishing an entomology program. First detectors need pest information, and the SPDN is developing materials such as picture clues and standard operating procedures, and they are establishing communication chains for issues such as sudden oak death, soybean rust, ralstonia and other important pests. Every state has first detector training programs that cover issues such as how to submit samples so that when they get to the diagnostic clinic they are intact and testable.

In addition to training first detectors, SPDN is establishing minimum diagnostic standards for the clinics that have been defined by regional diagnosticians. The newest program the SPDN is working on is an entomology program with Amanda Hodges acting as entomology coordinator. Hodges is currently identifying a person in every state in the southern region to work with on the entomology issues in the region to address the impact insects have.

"It is important to not only consider diseases, but insects as well because they have a huge impact on plant health," said Harmon.

Harmon hopes to continue working with SRIPMC towards a common goal of informing the public.

"I want to work on utilizing and broadcasting more of the IPM education material and the information the Centers gather on where the pests are, what needs to be done about them, and the response issues," said Harmon. "While SPDN technically works with detection, and we don't typically handle response, our first detectors need this information."

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