Southern IPM Center

September 2004

Director's Notes

It is a pleasure for me to be here in the Southern Region at last. I left a great situation with the Northeastern IPM Center, and I anticipate the work here to be just as challenging and enjoyable. While settling into my new home and community has been fun and interesting thus far, I am glad to be leaving behind the "no-man's land" between jobs.

A cornerstone of successful IPM Centers is stakeholder engagement in the process of setting and addressing priorities for public IPM programs. For our Center to be effective in facilitating the engagement of you – the stakeholder – I need to undertake a crash course in getting to know the people and programs here. Accordingly, I expect to spend a great deal of time over the coming months visiting with many of you. I'll probably start with the "usual suspects" – members of the SRIPMC Advisory Council and Steering Committee, state IPM Coordinators, project leaders and investigators funded by the Center. Whether or not you fit one of these descriptions, please feel free to contact me if there is something on your mind that we can help with or that we should know about (jim_vankirk@ncsu.edu; 919-513-1432).

Over the past year I worked with a private web-design group to revamp the Northeastern IPM Center website. The Southern and North Central IPM Centers have acquired the rights to that design, and I look forward to working with the excellent IT staff here to adapt the new design to our needs. As we work to implement the new design, we'll be asking for your suggestions on ways to make it work better for you.

Within the next few days, Ron and I will be putting the final touches on the Regional IPM (RIPM) Request for Applications (RFA) and sending it in for USDA approval. As soon as that approval is granted, we will release the RFA.

Ron, Steve, Jen and I will be meeting with other IPM Center leadership as well as land grant IPM leadership from across the nation in mid-September. These meetings are always a good chance to share and learn new ways to do our jobs more efficiently. They are also a good opportunity to make our Federal partners aware of concerns and priorities from the field. We'll let you know the details of the meeting in next month's newsletter.

I look forward to getting to know you, and soon. Please drop in or call when you can.

- Associate Director, Jim VanKirk

IPM Florida Implements Pilot Program with ChemSearch

When the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences restructured their IPM program in 2001 as IPM Florida, the county Extension faculty identified an immediate need for up-to-date pesticide information. Many Extension agents are responsible for numerous crops and are unable to keep up with constant label changes, especially concerning their minor crops. Several agents asked for an online database that would provide instant access to this information. Realizing this need, IPM Florida searched for a possible solution, but it wasn't until 2003 when one presented itself. (Continued on page 2…)

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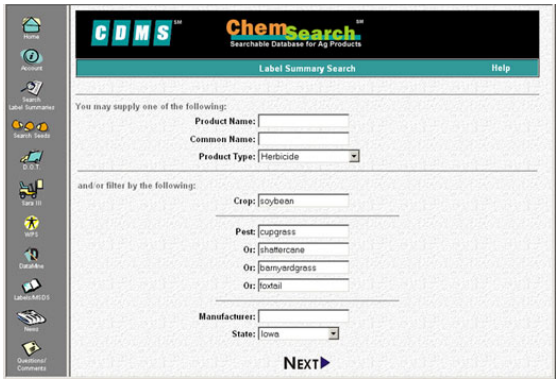

ChemSearch has a user-friendly interface.

In 2003 an agent located in South Florida contacted Daniel Sonke, Assistant IPM Coordinator and a graduate student at the University of Florida, looking for an online database to help him locate materials registered on minor herb crops such as basil, rosemary and thyme. Not knowing of a database to recommend, Sonke suggested the agent contact the pesticide information office. While they were able to help him, it took time to research and get back to the agent, and this solution did not provide the instant access agents requested. A useful, timesaving answer came just a few short days later in one of Sonke's classes.

"I was in lab for my internship class when I saw a demonstration of ChemSearch, and was given permission to use it," said Sonke. "Realizing it was just what the agent needed, I went online and in just a few minutes looked up the information on the herbs and also e-mailed him the results."

ChemSearch is the industry's premier searchable database for agricultural chemicals and contains product label information for over 1,600 crop protection and special products including 24Cs, Section 18s and Supplemental Labels. (Continued on page 3…)

Profile: Norm Nesheim, PhD

When Norm Nesheim received his PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of Illinois in 1967, he laid the foundation for a successful career in IPM. Over the years he has held a variety of positions that have brought him to where he is today, on the brink of retirement in late December this year.

Norm Nesheim, professor and pesticide information coordinator at the University of Florida IFAS

Starting with Morton Chemical Company, Nesheim began his career gaining experience in the agricultural chemical industry. Three years later he accepted a position with the Illinois Department of Agriculture as a Plant Pathologist which broadened his knowledge base to include state regulatory experience. Nesheim held this position for four years before accepting a position as the Extension Pesticide Coordinator with Oklahoma State University in 1974. As the Extension Pesticide Coordinator, Nesheim was responsible for establishing and coordinating Oklahoma's Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) program. The PAT program was established to prepare pesticide applicators to meet new federal and state certification requirements for restricted-use pesticides

In 1987 Nesheim transferred to the University of Florida to coordinate the Institute of Food and Agricultural Science's pesticide information program which includes the pesticide safety education program. Nesheim also coordinated the Oklahoma and Florida components of USDA's National Pesticide Impact Assessment Program (NAPIAP). He served as Southern Region NAPIAP Coordinator for several years prior to the transition of NAPIAP to the regional Pest Management Centers, now IPM Centers. Nesheim was co-director of the first Southern Region Pest Management Center. While in Florida Nesheim has also worked on pesticide safety programs for agricultural workers. He is an organizing member of the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE) and was AAPSE president from 1999-2001.

"I've seen IPM evolve from a concept into actual implementation. Various methods for managing pests are being developed into systems and being used for managing pests," said Nesheim.

Looking back on his career, Nesheim attributes his varied experiences to his success.

"It is interesting to consider the role of my early career experiences in industry and state regulatory on what I have done later in my career," said Nesheim. "I feel that information and perspectives gained in those experiences have been extremely valuable in the kinds of programs I've done."

In retirement, Nesheim looks forward to travel for personal enjoyment rather than the kind of travel that must be done as a part of work. He plans on getting involved with community activities, working on projects related to genealogy and antiques, and spending time with family and friends. While he is looking forward to exploring the options he did not have time for in the past because of his career, Nesheim will miss the people he has worked with over the years.

"I will probably try to keep some communication open, but there is a time and a place to step aside and let some other folks come in," said Nesheim. "I'm interested in the future of the programs I've worked on, but I don't want to get in the way."

"I've seen IPM evolve from a concept into actual implementation. Various methods for managing pests are being developed into systems and being used for managing pests."

- Dr. Norm Nesheim

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"What users have available to them with ChemSearch is the opportunity to quickly search across multiple companies and products by crop, pests, active ingredient, state, etc. The end result is a label summary, specific to the initial search" said Ted Holmes, Southeast Regional Sales Manager with CDMS. "With a good internet connection users can receive a label summary in under a minute. Users also have the ability to compare label summaries between two products, allowing them to do a side by side comparison of things like the rate, restrictions, adjuvants, or environmental considerations."

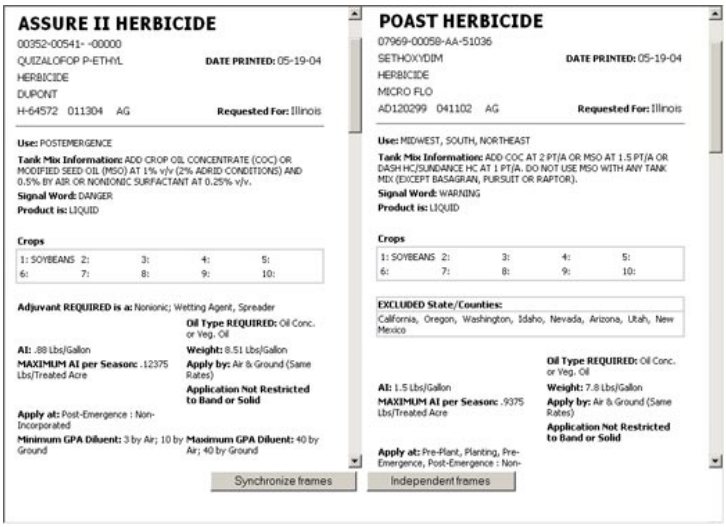
ChemSearch allows the user to search by crop or site, pest (up to four at a time), state/county, manufacturer, product name, type of product (herbicide, insecticide, etc.), application time or label type (24C, etc.). As a result of searches, use rates, pests controlled, re-entry options, crop rotations and safety information as well as other facts are displayed or printed in a one to two page format. In addition to the label summary, full-text versions of all product labels are available, as are over 4,200 MSDSs for agricultural and specialty products.

"After researching other commercial databases, it was very clear that ChemSearch was the easiest database to use," said Sonke. "You can learn it in just a few minutes, it is updated daily, and it contains most of the crops and materials our agents use. We worked throughout that next year to secure funding and conduct trials with agents in each of the five Extension districts in Florida, including the original agent that contacted me about the minor herb crops."

After a successful pilot program, the University of Florida is looking to expand the ChemSearch program into each of the 12 states in the Southern Region for evaluation of its use and content by Extension faculty. These states will work with CDMS Inc. staff to improve the database as necessary for Extension and research purposes.

"We are working on securing funding first, but our idea is to approach each of the state IPM coordinators and offer a certain number of subscriptions for them to use with whoever they feel would be most appropriate in their state to try out the product for a year and give us feedback on whether this is a need in their state and whether this product helps fill the need the way we think it does here in Florida," said Sonke.

Currently, ChemSearch is limited to pesticides for agriculture, turf and ornamentals. It does not contain household and structural products, and its home landscape selection is mainly limited to the largest manufactures, rather than off-patent products and local brands. However, agents who participated in the trial commented that they were still able to use ChemSearch to learn of active ingredients available in household pesticides.



ChemSearch allows users to perform a side-by-side comparison of two products, as seen above.

"I found the system to be quite useful. The label summaries were one of the best features. As an Extension Agent, it is often necessary to find information rapidly and this has been helpful. It is user friendly once one learns the terminology required … The only serious limitation that I found is in the area of ornamentals and turf. Some pests/ornamentals appear to be unlisted. I looked for spider mites on several ornamental species for example, and was unable to find a recognition of the pest or labels that pertained to it. Overall, I like the system and feel that it would be even more useful if the ornamentals and turf section were strengthened," writes Dan Mullins a Horticulture Agent in Santa Rosa County.

"CDMS is very willing to work with us to identify gaps in their database," said Sonke. "Working together provides mutual benefit, CDMS wins by gaining new accounts and improving their database, and we win by having the products we need added."

For more information about ChemSearch visit CDMS Inc.'s website at www.cdms.net or contact Ted Holmes at either (941) 746-6087 or 1-800-237-2367. For more information about the University of Florida's program to get ChemSearch out to Extension agents, contact Daniel Sonke at 352-392-1901 ext. 205 or dsonke@ufl.edu.

"… Many of the clients I work with are in the urban areas and have increasing restrictions place on the products they use. The compare feature was useful on two of these occasions to easily allow me to compare two different products quickly and efficiently. I was able to make informed recommendations based on the label information and my client's needs and site in less time than reading through several labels … I have used several programs over the years to search and access labels but this was the most user friendly program to date and it contained a broad spectrum of information."

-Pam Mattis, Commercial Horticulture Agent in Duval County

United Soybean Board

USB Chairman Criss Davis

USB Meeting on soy based products

USB Director Chuck Myers

A member of the SRIPMC Advisory Council, the United Soybean Board (USB) is a farmer-driven organization committed to implementing new technologies that will improve the United States soybean industry in terms of market expansion and production quantity and quality.

The USB utilizes checkoff dollars to help fund, among other things, research that attempts to improve soybean production and production efficiency. Every soybean farmer supports the checkoff system by investing 0.5 percent of the market value per bushel of soybeans sold in the various program areas of the USB.

Half of the funds collected through the checkoff go to work at the state level, supporting marketing and research programs of local interest. These local funds are managed by the Boards of Directors for each of the respective Qualified State Soybean Boards (QSSBs). The other half of the farmers' funds is utilized by the United Soybean Board (USB), where the 62 farmer Directors invest it in five major areas including: International Marketing, Domestic Marketing, New Uses, Production and Producer Communications.

Within the Production Program the funds are allocated to three target areas that include Yield, Composition and Coordination. With funds allocated 50 percent to Yield, 42 percent to Composition and a little over 7 percent to Coordination, each target area funds unique projects specific to the target areas.

The Yield target area funds a variety of projects aimed at yield improvement such as evaluating ways to mitigate the influence of stress on crop production or searching for specific yield genes. The composition target area funds projects targeting improvements such as enhancing the quality and quantity of the oil and meal within the soybean. Within the final target area, Coordination, the Production Committee strives to improve communication and coordination between soybean researchers to maximize the overall soybean research investment. For example, last year the United Soybean Board coordinated a workshop that brought together a wide variety of researchers from the public and private sector to discuss the critical issues surrounding genomics and prioritize a working plan of action. This year USB is working with USDA to bring together a similar meeting of researchers to prioritize the critical items that need to be addressed concerning soybean rust.

In addition to helping soybean growers invest in their future by funding research, the United Soybean Board feels Integrated Pest Management is an important aspect that needs to be part of any farm production.

"I think IPM is important to the United Soybean Board and the farmers it represents for the same reasons it's important to other farmers," said Dr. Stephen Muench, director of Research for the Production Program. "IPM is something growers need to be interested in and concerned about, as they look at how they can best maintain a sustainable agricultural system."

As a member of the Advisory Council, Muench has been able share information and plans of action discussed at Council meetings with USB committee members.

"By being a member of and involved with the Advisory Council I am able to share information with the Production Committee members and make sure these issues are being considered by the Committee who is making critical research funding decisions on behalf of the United Soybean Board," said Muench.

If you would like more information about the United Soybean Board visit http://www.unitedsoybean.org/ or contact Stephen Muench (314) 579-1586 or smuench@smithbucklin.com.

Upcoming Director's Meeting

The Regional IPM Center Director's meeting will be held September 15-16 in Washington, D.C. Directors and members from the four regions will be in attendance as well as representatives from CSREES, EPA, the Office of Pest Management Programs and others. Look for information and updates from these meeting in next month's newsletter.

Regional IPM Centers

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