



## Director's Notes

As you will see, much of this issue is devoted to announcing recently funded projects. One of the important functions of Regional IPM Centers is to help direct federal funds for research, education and information dissemination to appropriate projects. Presently we deal closely with three funding sources.

SRIPMC has the most direct control over the IPM Enhancement Grants Program. Each year we pass on almost half of our core funding through this grant program. The competition is open to a wide range of applicants. The Request for Applications (RFA) is generally released early in the calendar year. For 2006 we hope to release the RFA in January or February to have proposals reviewed and decisions made by early spring.

Competition for the Southern Regional IPM Grants Program (S-RIPM) is managed by SRIPMC for the USDA. This is a national grant program for Land Grant universities only, with funds split among the four regions using a complex

formula. SRIPMC staff writes the S-RIPM RFA based on input gathered from stakeholders throughout the year. We hope to release the next RFA by October, with proposals due in December and decisions made early in 2006.

The Pest Management Alternatives Program (PMAP) is a national competition, and awards are made without consideration of any regional split. This year, for the first time, regional priorities were included in the RFA and review process. USDA controls the timing of the PMAP competition, and we assume that the 2006 competition will roughly match this year's.

*-Jim VanKirk*

### Mark Your Calendar!

The next Advisory Council is scheduled for October 19, 2005. Keep an eye on your inbox for additional information included travel information and agendas.

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## SRIPMC Awards IPM Enhancement Grants for 2005

The Southern Region IPM Center is pleased to announce the recipients of the IPM Enhancement Grants for 2005. After meeting in June with the Proposal Review Panel, the Center awarded more than \$441,000 to fund 17 programs across the southern region. Funded programs fall into one of four categories including: State Contacts, IPM Documents, Special Projects, or Emerging Issues.



### State Contacts

Funding was available for up to \$25,000 per state or territory on an annual basis to fund a state contact. State contacts serve as the primary contact for regulatory questions related to pest management and pesticides, and are responsible for establishing and maintaining a stakeholder network to develop state priorities. In addition, state contacts are responsible for maintaining a project website and will provide oversight for the development of crop profiles and pest management strategic plans (PMSPs).

States and territories covered by a state contact for the upcoming year include:

Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Texas, Virginia, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

### IPM Documents

The Center awarded over \$56,000 to support the development of crop profiles and PMSPs, with funding available for one year.

Crop Profiles are searchable descriptions of crop production and pest management recommendations compiled by state and commodity. They describe the production practices for a commodity, the pest problems associated with its production and the pest management practices (both chemical and non-chemical) currently used to control the pest.

PMSPs address the pest management needs and priorities for individual commodities and are focused on commodity production in a particular state or region. The plans take a pest-by-pest approach to identify the current management practices (both chemical and non-chemical), and those under development. In addition, plans state the commodity's priorities for research, regulatory activities and education/training programs needed for transition to alternative pest management practices.

States approved for funding for crop profiles and PMSPs include: Virginia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Alabama and will cover crops such as wheat, peaches, and satsuma mandarin.

### Special Projects

This year the Southern Region IPM Center awarded over \$158,000 for projects that address novel approaches or critical IPM issues of regional or national significance. Fundable projects included, but were not limited to: applied research; demonstrations; focused work groups; planning workshops; publications; websites; use or impact assessments of IPM tactics and strategies.

These projects needed to incorporate several of the following characteristics: produces positive effects in a wide (multi-state and territory) area; involves an appropriately broad range of stakeholders, with special emphasis on involvement of presumed end users; leverages external resources, including funds, personnel, etc; reflects innovative partnerships that go beyond land-grant institutions; addresses important emerging issues which are not adequately addressed by existing programs; issue addressed is not currently well-funded by other existing programs; produces new IPM tools and delivery systems; and represents start-up or capstone efforts rather than program maintenance.

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Special projects approved for funding include the following:

**“Assessing the Early-Season Risk of Thrips Vectors of Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus on Solanaceous Crops,”** (David G. Riley, Alex S. Csinos, Robert M. McPherson)



Objective 1: Conduct an extensive survey of thrips vectors of TSWV around commercial tomato, pepper and other Solanaceous crop field sites in Georgia and South Carolina with the intent of identifying pre-season risk to the crop. Objective 2: Refine sampling procedures / guidelines for identifying local, overwintering sources of TSWV inoculum near tomato and pepper and calculating a relative TSWV risk index that can be done by consultants and farmers.

**“Breeding an Economically Viable Honey Bee for Beekeeping,”** (Keith Delaplane)



The ultimate aim of this project is to induce beekeepers to reduce their use of in-hive chemicals by delivering to them a genetically improved bee stock expressing pest resistance in concert with other characters of economic importance.

**“IPM of Invasive Stem Borers Impacting Sugarcane and Rice in the Gulf Coast Region,”** (T.E. Reagan, M.O. Way, Eric Webster, Ben Legendre)



The goal of this project is to develop and implement cultural and production practices as management strategies to reduce late season and overwintering stem borer

threats to the sugarcane and rice industries in the Gulf Coast region.

### Critical and Emerging Issues

The Center awarded over \$37,000 to fund projects that address a critical or emerging IPM issue of regional or national significance.

Critical and Emerging Issues projects funded include:

**“Developing a Sustainable Management Plan for Brazilian Peppertree in Florida,”** (James Paul Cuda, William A. Overholt)



This project will develop and test a model IPM system for controlling Brazilian peppertree in Florida. In addition, the will extend and demon-

strate integrated management of Brazilian peppertree to public/private landowners and native Americans.

**“Integrated Pest Management for Black Sigatoka, *Mycosphaerella Fijiensis*, Morelet in Puerto Rico,”** (Wanda I. Almodovar, Ada N. Alvarado-Ortiz, Manuel Diaz)



This project will use PCR to detect *Mycosphaerella fijiensis* causing leaf spots in banana and plantain at municipalities of the western area of Puerto Rico and develop an IPM package for Black Sigatoka. In addition they will give on farm demonstrations of the IPM package.

Proposals for critical/emerging issues may be submitted at any time during the year. Submissions made during the RFA release period (i.e., before April 1, 2005) were reviewed and ranked by the Proposal Review Panel, but the Panel reserved some funds in order to address issues that may arise after the RFA closing date.

If you would like more information about the Center's grants program, visit [www.sripmc.org](http://www.sripmc.org).

## Steering Committee and Advisory Council Revise Membership Bylaws

Following the Advisory Council and Steering Committee meetings in April, the following changes were made to the membership and by-laws.

The Advisory Council (AC) and Steering Committees (SC) will now rotate membership after a three-year term has been completed. In order to start the rotation, Center staff will start the 3-year rotation after the meeting instead of on January 1. Center staff will inform individuals that will be rotated off and adjust the terms of current members to ensure a continual rotation. Some categories of AC membership have only one person who can serve as a representative of their stakeholder group. These positions may remain unchanged indefinitely.

In addition to the three year rotation, members are considered inactive when no communication exists be-

tween an AC member and any Center staff in response to SRIPMC business either by e-mail, telephone, or meeting attendance for the period of a year.

Before excusing an AC member, the SC and all SRIPMC staff will be informed of the decision by the Center director and upon the approval of the SC, a letter will be sent to the member informing them of the termination of their membership.

Members may also excuse themselves by submitting a letter to the Center director, who will then forward the information to the SC. If possible, the departing member is encouraged to recommend a potential replacement.

The Steering Committee will adopt the same rotation with exceptions made for membership slots that only have one individual that can

represent the specific organization. As part of the first round of rotation the Center will add an agricultural IPM consultant, a representative from IR-4 in the southern region, an EPA representative, an environmental or public interest organization, and a pest control operator or urban IPM provider. The Center is currently soliciting individuals to fill these spots and hope to have them in place before the next set of meetings.

If a search for replacements to fulfill each representation category is unsuccessful after attempting recruitment of nominees from IPM stakeholders, IPM Coordinators, AC members, and the SC, the position will remain open until a representative can be found.

For more information about the by-laws visit: [http://www.sripmc.org/SRIPMC\\_committees.cfm](http://www.sripmc.org/SRIPMC_committees.cfm)

## AC and SC Elect New Leadership



Pat O'Leary  
Steering Committee  
Chair-elect

"Continued sustainability of the US agricultural system is dependent on IPM remaining a strong force in our farming operations. I believe that the activities of the Southern Region IPM Center and the associated Advisory Council and Steering Committee are instrumental in accomplishing that end. I value my association with the Center and welcome the opportunity to serve as chair-elect of its Steering Committee."



Carrie Lapaire Harmon  
Advisory Council  
Chair-elect

"An integrated strategy for pest management in today's agriculture translates into economic and environmental sustainability for the agriculture of tomorrow. Diverse and vocal representation on the Advisory Council helps the Center prioritize stakeholder-defined pest management needs for the southern region. This communication keeps the Center's fingers on the pulse of agriculture, ensuring relevancy of funded projects."

## EPA Recognizes School IPM Program

*The following is from the Summer 2005 edition of Perspectives, NCSU's Magazine for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*

N.C. State University's School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program recently received the Environmental Protection Agency's Recognition Award for efforts in making the environment in North Carolina public schools safer and healthier for children. Dr. Mike Linker, program director, and Dr. Godfrey Nalyanya, coordinator, are based in the Department of Crop Science.



The Department of Crop Science's Dr. Mike Linker (left) and Dr. Godfrey Nalyanya lead the university's School IPM program. Photo by Becky Kirkland

Linker and Nalyanya promote the adoption of IPM, a proactive and common-sense approach to controlling pests that discourages routine application of pesticides in public schools. IPM incorporates facility inspections, education, sanitation, structural maintenance and repair, proper recycling and waste management in a comprehensive plan. Limited and targeted applications of reduced-risk pesticides can be done when needed.

Research indicates that children are especially at risk to pests and pesticides. Their bodies, behaviors and size make them both different from and more vulnerable than adults to pesticides. From conception through adolescence, they are in a dynamic, often-sensitive state of growth as their immature nervous, respiratory, reproductive and immune systems develop. For this reason they should be protected from exposure to pests and the pesticides that are commonly used to control pests.

The IPM approach reduces the amount and frequency of pesticide use and eliminates the exposure of children to pesticide residues. IPM produces long-lasting pest control results and ultimately reduces property damage by pests. Over time, school districts spend less on pest control using IPM. The NCSU School IPM program is funded by a grant from the Pesticide Environmental Trust Fund (PETF) of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

*- Written by Natalie Hampton*

## Heather Creecy: The Center's First Intern

The Southern Region IPM Center established a communication intern program this past summer with Heather Creecy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill filling the role as the Center's first intern. Creecy is a rising senior majoring in Journalism and Mass Communication with a concentration in Public Relations. She assisted with the development of press releases and feature articles, researched local news stories, built an Agnews database, assisted with the development of Center brochures, searched for and wrote captions for the pictures featured on the center webpage ([www.sripmc.org](http://www.sripmc.org)) and took the lead role in researching and reporting NewsFlash items.

The internship program proved to be a success this summer and Center staff are looking into continuing the program throughout the year.



Heather Creecy, summer intern for the Southern Region IPM Center.

## PMAP Grants Awarded

The final results of the national Pest Management Alternative Plan (PMAP) competition were recently released for FY 2005. Using the priorities submitted by Regional IPM Centers, CSREES awarded over \$382,000 to researchers within the southern region. Southern Region projects funded include:

- Trap Crops and Biopesticides for Tarnished Plant Bug Control to Reduce Reliance on Organophosphate Insecticides in Midsouth Cotton
- Development and Field Evaluation of an In-hive Trap for Small Hive Beetles
- Pest Management Strategies for Stored Products; Raw Grain and Value-added Foods

Other projects funded throughout the country include:

- Development and Implementation of Best Management Practices to Reduce the Impact of New Invasive Insect Pests, the Swede Midge
- Demonstration Trials of Food Grains Ozonation - a New Chemical-free Stored Product Pest Control Technology
- Designing Pest Management Strategies in Seed Alfalfa to Conserve Natural Enemies and Pollinators
- Alternative Management Strategies for Onion Maggot in Onion and a Guideline for Implementation
- Reduced Fungicide Strategy for Management of Cranberry Fruit Rot

## PMAP Priorities

This year was the first year that regional Centers were asked to participate in the development of the RFA which in turn had a direct impact on projects that were funded. Center staff asked numerous stakeholder groups such as the Steering Committee, Advisory Council, IPM Coordinators, State Contacts etc. to suggest southern region priorities for the RFA. The following priorities were included in the PMAP RFA:

1. Respond to pest management needs and priorities identified in

Pest Management Strategic Plans from the Southern Region.

2. Respond to new pest problems in Southern Region crops resulting from losses or potential losses of IPM technologies due to regulatory decision, voluntary cancellation, or pest resistance, (e.g., fipronil seed treatment for rice water weevil; glyphosate resistant horseweed)
3. Respond to new and emerging problems due to pest invasions (e.g., imported fire ant, soybean rust) and changes in production systems (e.g., whiteflies on vegetables; stinkbug on cotton)

## eXtension Grant

With support from the three other regional Centers, Jim VanKirk, director of the Southern Region IPM Center, submitted a grant proposal for the eXtension Community of Interest RFA.

According to the eXtension website, the goal of eXtension is: "The Cooperative Extension Services of the U.S. states and territories, along with other components of Land-Grant Universities and the Cooperative States Research, Education and Extension Service of USDA, are cooperating to build a national eXtension system.. This collaborative effort will allow the Extension system to more efficiently serve current and new customers in ways that provide accurate and just in time information for decision making. The information technology and the intellectual capacity for this system are in place to complement the dedicated Extension educators located in the 3000 plus counties of the US."

For more information about eXtension visit:

<http://intranet.extension.org>



4. Improve or develop IPM systems, technologies and techniques that reduce risk relative to existing systems in Southern Region crops (e.g., organophosphate use in peaches)
5. Improve or develop alternatives to prophylactic controls for soil pests in Southern Region crops (e.g., grape root borer, wireworms, white grubs, nematodes in a variety of crops)
6. Improve the management of pests in commercial nursery and commercial greenhouse production (e.g., whiteflies) in the Southern Region.

## S-RIPM Grants Awarded

The following grants were awarded by the Southern Region IPM Grants Program (S-RIPM) for FY2005:

Pheromone Based Management of Dogwood Borer - J. Christopher Bergh, VT

Building an Education, Training and Outreach Image Support System for the Southern Region Plant Diagnostics Network - G. Keith Douce, UGA

Development of Weather-based Regression Models for Predicting Flights of Tobacco Thrips and Spread of Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus - George Kennedy, NCSU

A Multi-State Network for Predicting Pest Activity in Pecans - Allen Knutson, TAMU

Integrated Management of Anthracnose, Botrytis and Phytophthora in Southeastern Strawberry Plasticulture Systems - Frank J. Louws, NCSU

Use of Brassicaceae Cover Crop and Other Integrated Weed Management Strategies for Control of Nutsedge Species in High-risk Crops - Jason K. Norsworthy, Clemson

Reducing Homeowner Pesticide Use and Increasing Consumer and Student Knowledge of IPM Through Public Outreach/Education - Mila J. Pearce, UGA

Novel Approaches to Integrated Management of Armillaria Root Rot of Peach - Guido Schnabel, Clemson

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## Upcoming Events

S-RIPM RFA Release  
Early Fall (Tentative date)

IPM Directors Meeting in Washington D.C.  
October 4-6, 2005

Advisory Council Meeting in Raleigh, NC  
October 19, 2005

Steering Committee Meeting in Raleigh, NC  
To Be Determined  
(dates will be announced once determined)

