



## Southern Region IPM Center Annual Update

Prepared for the National IPM Committee  
Meeting, October 2008



# Six IPM Leaders Receive First “Friends of IPM” Awards

Six of the South’s leaders in integrated pest management were named “Friends of IPM” last December.

The Southern Region IPM Center developed the Friends of IPM Award to recognize extraordinary achievement in research, extension and implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) in the Southern Region.

A call for nominations in October outlined award possibilities in six categories: IPM Implementer, IPM Teacher, Pulling Together, Future Leader, Outstanding State IPM Program and Lifetime Achievement. Awardees in the first five categories were eligible for \$2,000 in reimbursable expenses. Awards were presented at a venue of each award-winner’s choosing.

The Southern Region IPM Center Advisory Council recommended the following individuals and groups for the awards.

- IPM Implementer (“on the ground” IPM users): Glades Crop Care, FL



Charles and Madeline Mellinger, Glades Crop Care, IPM Implementer

- IPM Teacher (those who teach others to use IPM successfully and increase the number of IPM users): Marvin Harris and Bill Ree, Texas AgriLife Pecan IPM Program
- Outstanding State IPM Program (a special designation for a leading IPM program): Texas IPM Program, Texas AgriLife
- Lifetime Achievement Award (someone with a long career in IPM who is highly regarded and respected as a role model: John Jackman, Texas AgriLife Extension



L-R: Tom Fuchs for Texas IPM Program, Outstanding IPM Program; Bill Ree and Marvin Harris, IPM Teacher; John Jackman, Lifetime Achievement

- Future Leader (someone who shows extraordinary promise of future leadership in IPM): Jennifer Gillett, UF/IFAS IPM Florida



Jennifer Gillett, Future Leader, and SRIPMC Associate Director Steve Toth

- Pulling Together (a multi-disciplinary group who successfully implement IPM technologies as a team): University of Kentucky Wheat Science Group



Dean Scott Smith (L) and Doug Johnson (R), Kentucky Wheat Science Group, Pulling Together

## Eight 2008 Southern Regional IPM Grants Awarded



This year Southern Regional IPM grants funded 8 of 25 proposals for a total of \$796,355. Of the funded proposals, 4 were for research projects, 2 were for extension projects, and

2 were for combination research and extension projects.

The following list includes all of the 2008 Southern Region IPM awards:

- Enhancing Sustainable Use of Transgenic Bt-Corn Through Resistance Management for the Mid-Southern Region of the United States (Louisiana State University: Fangneng Huang, \$133,900)
- Novel Feeding Disruption Assay for Monitoring Insecticide Resistance in Adult Lepidoptera (North Carolina State University: Michael R. Roe, \$126,300)
- Expanding IPM Images to Meet the Needs of Southern IPM Extension Education and Plant Diagnostic Communities (University of Georgia: G. Keith Douce, \$33,454)
- Development of a Pocket Guide for the Identification and Control of Invasive Weeds in the Southern Region (University of Tennessee: Gregory R. Armel, \$36,546)
- Argentine Ant IPM in the Urban Landscape with Food Source Reductions and Baits (North Carolina State University: Jules Silverman, \$94,432)
- Integrated Weed Management Strategies to Increase Pasture Productivity (University of Kentucky: Jonathan D. Green, \$116,188)
- Implementation of a Regional Fungicide Resistance Monitoring and Brown Rot Disease Management Program to Sustain Peach Production in the South (Clemson University: Guido Schnabel (157,638)
- Push-Pull Fly Management for Deep Bedded Swine Barns (North Carolina State University: David Wes Watson, \$97,897)

The RFA for the 2009 grants was released September 24.

## Southern Region School IPM Goes Green

In February, the Southern Region School IPM working group organized a regional workshop at Texas AgriLife Extension on "IPM and Green Building Design." The workshop was funded by a National Extension IPM USDA grant.

Workshop attendees included Dr. Tom Green, president of the IPM Institute and Dr. Al Greene of the US General Services Administration, in addition to architects, engineers, builders, pest control operators, city planners and school district personnel from the southern region. The purpose of the

workshop was to discuss pest management planning for schools starting the with building's design. Participants discussed how IPM could be included in "green" building design, and what aspects of green design tended to attract pests.

The workshop began with an introduction to the LEED rating system (Leadership in Energy Environmental Design) designed by the US Green Building Council for new and existing buildings. The LEED system is currently the national rating system for green building design.

## School IPM Goes Green (continued)

The highlight of the first day was a guided tour through Hector Garcia Middle School, Dallas's first LEED-certified green school. On the second day, workshop participants listened to speakers, including a structural engineer, pest control professionals from Orkin, Inc., Dr. Al Greene, and the environmental and energy manager for one of Texas' school districts.

Reactions to the workshop were positive, and an article about the workshop appeared in the August issue of *PCT Magazine*.



A few workshop participants discuss their impressions of Hector Garcia Middle School as a few others inspect a sink in the kitchen for pest attractants and possible habitats.

## 2008 IPM Enhancement Grants Awarded

For the third year, the Southern Region IPM Center IPM Enhancement Grants Program was split into two parts. Part I included the state contact and IPM documents (crop profiles, pest management strategic plans, IPM priorities and IPM elements) projects. Part II included seed and capstone projects. Separate Request for Applications (RFAs) for Parts I and II of the IPM Enhancement Grants Program were released on December 3, 2007 with a deadline of January 25, 2008 for submitting proposals to the Center. Nine proposals (with 14 separate projects) requesting \$318,320 and 12 proposals (with 12 projects) requesting \$284,328 were submitted for Parts I and II, respectively.

For Part I, 8 proposals (12 projects) totaling approximately \$277,220 were approved for funding. Six proposals totaling approximately \$148,125 were approved for funding under Part II. A list of projects (and project directors) selected for funding for 2008 is provided below.

### **PART I:**

#### State Contact Projects:

- State Contact and IPM Documents for Alabama (Henry Y. Fadamiro, \$24,951)
- State Contact and IPM Documents for Arkansas (J. Ples Spradley, \$24,000)
- State Contact and IPM Documents for Kentucky (Patricia Lucas, \$24,000)
- Tennessee Pest Management Information Network - State Contact and IPM Documents (Darrell D. Hensley and James Patrick Parkman, \$25,000)

## IPM Enhancement Grants (continued)

### State Contacts and IPM Documents Projects:

- Southern Region IPM Network for Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands and Related IPM Documents (Mark Mossler and Fred Fishel, \$61,078)
- State Contact and IPM Documents for Oklahoma (Jim T. Criswell and Charles C. Luper, \$35,000)
- State Contact and IPM Documents for Texas (Mark A. Matocha and Don L. Rennie, \$33,191)
- Virginia Pest Management Information Network - State Contact Project (SCP) and IPM Documents (Michael J. Weaver, \$50,000)

### **PART II:**

### IPM Seed Projects:

- Identification of semiochemicals mediating attraction and aversion in the nine-banded armadillo, *Dasypus novemcinctus* L. (Russell F. Mizell, III and Holly K. Ober, \$23,125)



- Southern Region Conference to Assess Needs in IPM to Reduce the Incidence of Tick-Borne Diseases (Charles S. Apperson, \$25,000)

- Testing and deployment of a web-based yield loss prediction tool for risk management of Soybean Rust (Joe A. Omielan, Don Hershman and Saratha Kumudini-Vandoren, \$25,000)
- Xylem feeding insects of pecan in Texas and Louisiana and their role in Xylella disease transmission (William O. Ree, Forest Mitchell and Randy Sanderlin, \$25,000)

### IPM Capstone Projects:

- Field Guide to Stink Bugs of Agricultural Importance in the Upper Southern Region and Mid-Atlantic States (Sean Malone, David Ames Herbert, Jr., Katherine L. Kamminga and Jeremy Greene, \$25,000)



- Refinement and validation of a new time-saving scouting technique for Hemipterous pests of cotton based on external feeding symptoms (David Ames Herbert, Jr., Jack Bacheler, Eric Lee Blinka and Michael Dennis Toews, \$25,000)

# Southern Region Crop Profiles and PMSPs

September 2007 to September 2008

## Crop Profiles completed

- Florida avocados (revision)
- Florida beef cattle (revision)
- Florida lychee and longan (revision)
- Florida pasture/rangeland (revision)
- Florida potatoes (revision)
- Florida radishes
- Florida sweet corn (revision)
- Florida sugarcane
- North Carolina Christmas trees (revision)
- Oklahoma canola
- Oklahoma spinach
- Tennessee blueberries
- Tennessee dairy cattle

- Tennessee grapes (revision)
- Tennessee leafy greens
- Tennessee tobacco (revision)
- Tennessee wheat (revision)
- Texas sorghum
- Virginia swine

## Pest Management Strategic Plans completed

- Honey bee production (Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia)
- Sweet corn (Tennessee)
- Watermelon (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and North Carolina)

## The Regional IPM Centers' Proposal/Project Management System (PPMS)

The **Proposal/Project Management System** (PPMS) is a database-driven set of on-line applications capable of managing multiple grant programs, from the initial Request for Applications (RFA) through proposal submission, panel review (optional), project selection and project report submission. Program managers have access to a complete history of every proposal and funded project. PPMS currently uses Access as the database, but this could be easily scaled to SQL server, MySQL, or Oracle. The database to web translation uses Adobe's Cold Fusion, Java-based software that works on both Windows and Linux Operating Systems.

PPMS ties every proposal and subsequent funded project to the original RFA and its requirements. It provides a complete and transparent record of all management decisions and reports, plus complete control of all aspects of the grants management process, including contract and invoice information, if desired.

New to the system is dynamic translation of all submitted proposal forms to pdf and the merging of each proposal's forms to a single pdf document for reviewers. Program Managers can produce statistics on funding for each year and RFA. The system also allows Program Managers to upload project information into the IPM Interagency Database System, using web services. The system is being used by all 4 regional centers and the *ipmPIPE* competitive grants program.

Refinements are in development for SRIPMC and may be available for other Centers on request.

### Coming Soon:

1. Tracking of administrative progress for each project (e.g., submission, approval, requests for extensions, rebudget or PI change)
2. Budgetary tracking by expense type (e.g., personnel, travel, supplies, etc.)

## ipmPIPE Update

For the past year SRIPMC has continued to contribute to the national ipmPIPE program by providing leadership in the budgeting and accounting. Jim VanKirk is Project Director for the grant resulting from the tri-partite agreement among USDA RMA, USDA CSREES and North Carolina State University.

PIPE 1, the original contract which used fy 2005 funds, terminated in March, 2008.

PIPE 2 was initiated in September 2006, with most subcontracts to states and PDNs terminating on Sept. 13, 2008. SRIPMC is currently in the process of closing out most of those subcontracts.

PIPE 3, initiated in September 2007, covers 33 subcontracts. Soybean rust and soybean aphid components are funded with 29 subcontracts directly from NCSU to host institutions. The legume PIPE component is funded with a single subcontract to the Western IPM Center, which in turn manages approximately 24 subcontracts. New component Pecan PIPE is managed through the Penn State subcontract and, in turn, a subcontract to Texas A&M. Another new component, the Cucurbit Downy Mildew (CDM) PIPE, is hosted at North Carolina State University and thus budgeted directly from the primary contract. Diagnostic functions are covered by including funds in state-level subcontracts instead of directing funds through NPDN, as was done in previous years.

There is so far no PIPE 4 even though the need for and benefits from using the program in 2009 are clear. The Risk Management Agency is unable to continue funding the project, and we have yet to establish another source of funds. Congress has not committed to funding ipmPIPE at this time. The entire ipmPIPE team is working together to develop mechanisms to maintain ipmPIPE for the 2009 season. Presently our plans include attempting a "life support," bare-bones program funded through:

- Cutting program and resulting costs as much as possible while retaining a viable and useful program
- Scraping together savings from the previous contracts and redirecting resulting funds
- Requesting funds from the Soybean Check-off for sentinel plots and other monitoring
- Continuing to request support from USDA-CSREES, exact source and amount as yet unidentified.



## Staff Changes

**For SRIPMC:** Steve Toth accepted the position of North Carolina IPM Coordinator. He will devote 30% of his time to that role but will continue as SRIPMC's Associate Director.

**For CIPM:** Tom Melton was chosen to be the Interim Director of the NSF Center for IPM as Ron Stinner continues his phased retirement.

## IPM in the News

The following articles about Southern region IPM projects have appeared in national or state publications:

“For better nematode control, Know Your Soil Types,” *Cotton Grower*, January 2008 (Project: using electrical conductivity systems to predict nematode infestations, Charles Overstreet, Louisiana State University)

“Like Pavlov’s Dogs,” *American/Western Fruit Grower*, April 2008 (Project: Pheromone-based management of dogwood borer, J. Chris Bergh, Virginia Tech, 2005 S-RIPM grant)

“Degree day’ technology enhances options in PNC arsenal,” *Pecan South*, May 2008 (Project: A multi-state network for predicting pest activity in pecans, Allen Knutson, Texas AgriLife Extension, 2005 S-RIPM grant)

“IPM program helps school manage pests safely,” *Extension Online News* (NCSU), May 30, 2008 (About a report on 2007 survey of state public school maintenance directors concerning school pest management practices, Godfrey Nalyanya, North Carolina State University)

“Experts discuss how to marry IPM with green-building design,” *PCT Magazine*, July 2008 (About the IPM and Green Schools workshop, Southern Region School IPM working group)

“New pest management research funded,” *Delta Farm Press*, August 27, 2008 (2008 S-RIPM projects)

“Researchers look for ways to increase pasture productivity,” *Plant Management Network*, September 2008 (Project: Integrated Weed Management Strategies to Increase Pasture Productivity, Jonathan Green, University of Kentucky, 2008 S-RIPM grant)

## Publications

Pest Management Strategic Plan for Honey Bees in the Mid-Atlantic States

## Advisory Council Member Changes

SRIPMC has several new members on its Advisory Council:

Tom Brennan, Environmental Protection Agency  
 Dave Close, Master Gardeners  
 Conrad Lavender, Southern Agribusiness  
 John Mayne, Southern SARE  
 Mark McFarland, CSREES Water Quality Program, Texas  
 Don Parker, National Cotton Council of America  
 Caydee Savinelli, Insecticide Resistance Action Committee/Syngenta  
 Kathy Shay, City of Austin Grow Green Program

