

National IPM Centers' Directors Meeting Report

February 1-3, 2005 Washington DC

Attending:

John Ayers, Jonathan Becker, Pat Bills, Chuck Benbrook, Harold Coble, Larry Elworth, John Emmitte, Mike Fitzner, Mike Gray, Tom Green, Linda Herbst, Jennifer Hodorowicz, Bill Hoffman, Tom Holtzer, Steve Hopkins, Al Jennings, Lynnae Jess, Kathy Kimbleday, Carrie Koplinka-Loehr, Dennis Kopp, Nikhil Mallampalli, Rick Melnicoe, Scott Mueller, Therese Murtagh, Bob Nowierski, Larry Olsen, Susan Ratcliffe, Bruce Stanley, Ron Stinner, Steve Toth, Elizabeth Thomas, Jim VanKirk, Markel Whitman

Day 1 – February 1, 2005

Welcome, Introductions, and Review Agenda

- Carrie Koplinka-Loehr is the new co-director for the Northeastern IPM Center. Her official start date is February 16.
- Center's start date for renewal – September 15, 2005
- Want to add time at the end of these meetings for Center staff to have more time to talk amongst themselves. Will discuss further and schedule time.

CSREES Update – Mike Fitzner

- The latest edition of the Plant Science update is now available on the web. Want to get Centers more involved with stories, please contact Amy Rhodes (arhodes@csrees.usda.gov) with updates.
- Budget information included on pages 10 and 11 of the Plant Science Update found [here](#).
- Staff changes
 - Amy Rhodes – Outreach Coordinator
 - Bill Hoffman – new responsibilities in homeland security
 - Jim Kotcon – IPM, working to ramp up CSREES involvement in organic production
 - Dennis Kopp – leaving to join the Office of Administrator as the Assistant Administrator for Planning and Analysis
- Measurement Accountability
 - CSREES is undergoing the PART (Program Assessment Rating Tool) with the plant protection side about to be evaluated – want to share this evaluation with Centers. Will send out after review and will follow up after panel review.
 - Other measurement topics – making an effort to revise web based reporting system. Reevaluating how we receive outcomes from the system and want to concentrate more on success stories and move to a more narrative system rather than an objective and indicators system.
 - Last meeting, we discussed forming a subcommittee to identify way to evaluate IPM. Mike Fitzner has not been able to bring this group together yet. Group needs to have a clear focus of accomplishing better program management, continuing to increase better stakeholder involvement, and protecting and building the budget. Will continue to work on establishing this group and use the survey NRCS is doing on IPM adoption as an example.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Mike Fitzner will establish this strategic planning group/subcommittee by the June Director's Meeting to address measurement of impacts as a follow up to the work done by Bill Hoffman and Bill Coli. Include**

Frank Zalom, Ed Rajotte and Carol Pilcher (from Iowa) in this subcommittee.

- Pink Hibiscus Mealybug Conference Call
 - See handout here.
 - Pest alert currently in production.
- Centers are receiving high marks on cooperation with NPDN, keep up the good work.

OPMP Update – Al Jennings

- Soybean Rust
 - Happened early this year in Louisiana and across the south. Have numerous chemicals approved under Section 18s. Main questions people are asking is how fast and far the disease will move, and they are concerned about running out of chemicals. Lots of uncertainty.
- Perchlorate
 - The National Academy of Sciences came up with the .0007 milligrams per kilogram per day recommendation. This is 20 times the level EPA was looking at.
- Methyl Bromide
 - Requests are continually going in for exemptions
- National Plant Disease Recovery System (NPDRS)
 - Al Jennings is now handling this project with a 2 million dollar budget. Working to develop response and recovery plans and want to be able to solve problems within a year of outbreaks.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Now that Al Jennings is handling this project, he will ask Centers to join in work groups. Al will contact Center staff.**
- Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act
- In December the president authorized 50 million dollars to be spent on specialty crops with the block of the money to go to each state for a period of 5 years. This money is authorized, but not yet appropriated. Contacting Deans and Directors might help to pressure congress to appropriate these funds.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Each state should be contacting deans or others who are appropriate about the specialty crop competitiveness act. Harold Coble is the point person on this action item.**
- Staff changes – Therese Murtagh is now working with the new deputy administrator

EPA Update – Nikhil Mallampalli

- Training Courses
 - Would like to continue the training courses that were held last year. Wanted to hold 2 courses this year to enhance knowledge of regional differences of crop production within BEAD. Budget was cut and right now they don't have the money to fund the courses, but they are working with the office director to try and to identify funds for this activity. Looking to hold the courses in the Northeast or Southern regions, but open to other regions as well.
- Endangered Species
 - Endangered species issues caused the reorganization of FEES and the development of a new branch headed by Arty Williams.
- Pesticides used in water
 - Federal register notice was recently issued in regard to pesticide use in water. Propose regulation to be under FIFRA and not the clean water act.
- Human Testing Proposal
 - Moving ahead on a case-by-case basis.

Centers Update – Center Directors

- South
 - RIPM grants – received 47 proposals, review panels meeting during February. Center grants – renamed IPM Enhancement Funds, RFA almost ready to go out. Advisory Council and Steering Committee Meetings – held in December and were very successful. Created IPM working groups committees and are seeing positive impacts. Website – coming along slower than planned, but still moving ahead. Subcommittee began review and developing resource database. PMSP- have a few underway including cotton and tobacco. Jim is attending the Brazilian soybean rust training through the NPDN and the Centers are sponsoring individuals from the North Central region. Working on a regional fire ant publication with Tom Fuchs out of Texas. [January newsletter available here.](#)
- North Central
 - Completed the quarterly update of Center activities for their stakeholders to help prioritize IPM needs. The north central region no longer funds state contacts, instead their IPM Coordinators fill this role. Steering Committee met in November and made significant recommendations for the Center. RIPM- 49 proposals submitted with 8 funded. Moved to an electronic submission system. Continuing the Connection newsletter, pest alerts, and updating website. [Full Center update available here.](#)
- West
 - First newsletter out – The Western Front. Available electronically with some printed copies to distribute to experiment station directors etc. The 2005 WIPMC Symposium: Water, Wildlife and Pesticides in the West: Pest Management’s Contribution to Solving Environmental Problems will be held on August 31 and September 1, 2005, in Portland, Oregon. The WIPMC completed funding successful proposals from two RFAs issued in the summer of 2004. [Full Center update available here.](#)
- Northeastern
 - Carrie Koplinka-Loehr is the new co-director for the Northeast IPM Center. Start date February 16. Community and Urban IPM Conference is March 15-16 in New Hampshire. Need help getting the word out to encourage people to register. [Full Center update available here.](#)

Meeting Structure – added to agenda

- Want to include action items as part of notes and include them in the next meeting agenda. Also want to cut down on the length of meeting report.
- Want to designate time for IPM Center work only. Need this time for Center staff to discuss issues that are relevant to what they are working on and communicate and continue to grow and build off each other. ACTION ITEM: **Decision was made to add time to the end of the meetings for Center staff to meet.**
- ACTION ITEM: **The Southern Region needs to check and see if they have a representative from the National Foundation for IPM Education on their Advisory Council.**
- ACTION ITEM: **Need to create smaller work groups to address specific issues of interest or concern to the Centers.**
- ACTION ITEM: **Jim VanKirk will provide a website to post action items and submit items for the agenda. This will be housed on the IPMcenters.org website.**
- ACTION ITEM: **Larry Olsen and Ed Rajotte will try to contact CAPS representative to engage APHIS on the subject of meshing on-the-grounds efforts for locating pests.**

Day 2 – February 2, 2005

IR-4 Priorities, formation of a subcommittee – Rick Melnicoe

- Rick is the coordinator and liaison between IR-4 and the Centers and works with regions to identify IR-4 priorities. Received 3 priorities, can submit 5. Want to set up a subcommittee to set these priorities.
- **ACTION ITEM: Lynnae Jess, Steve Toth, Pat Hastings, Rick Melnicoe will serve on this subcommittee.**

Pest Management Strategic Plans – Rick Melnicoe

- Rick will get a revised guidance document from the PMSP subcommittee and will post on the web.

Insecticide Resistance Management Fact Sheet – Steve Toth, Bruce Stanley

- The Insect Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) wants to expand efforts beyond the Southern Region IPM Center. IRAC asks for help communicating information on pesticide resistance throughout the regions to the extension and consultant level. There may be funding to create new or modified fact sheets on resistance management. The Southern region is willing to share the files using logos from the other regions. They want to create others for commodities such as fruit, soybeans and landscaping, and share with other regions. Steve and Sue will coordinate this. Sue has suggestions for how to make printing cheaper.
- Need to talk with HRAC and FRAC to look into incorporating herbicides and fungicides.
- PDF versions of the fact sheets are posted on the National IPM Center website.
- **ACTION ITEM: Steve Toth, Sue Ratcliffe, and Jennifer Hodorowicz will work with other regions to expand efforts beyond the Southern Region. Will work to create others for each commodity and region.**

CDMS Database – Scott Mueller

- [See PowerPoint presentation here.](#)
- CDMS has been creating software with the ag industry for the past 22 years. Work with over 104 supporting chemical companies; provide 4,400 products representing over 93 percent of active ingredient usage (excluding methyl bromide) updated daily covering all US commodities and label types.
- ChemCheck – recommendations checked vs. label database
- ChemSearch – detailed searches across labels and label summaries
- BloodHound – web based use reporting system for food companies
- IFAS worked with CDMS to get 100 user ids and passwords for ChemSearch, and the Southern Region has recently purchased an additional 144 users. Other regions and similar groups can get a ChemSearch license for \$100 a year.
- **ACTION ITEM: Ron Stinner, John Ayers, Rick Melnicoe, Lynnae Jess form a subcommittee to work on the Center's role in publicizing CDMS and purchasing a group subscription**

SYSCO Sustainable Initiative – Tom Green

- [Background information about SYSCO Foods here.](#)
- www.sysco.com
- Want their suppliers to support a more sustainable environment.
- SYSCO developed a survey to examine their use of IPM. While it was obvious that

- suppliers were using IPM, they weren't documenting it, so SYSCO has now moved forward to create standards growers must meet.
- SYSCO came to this meeting to make the Centers aware of what they are doing and let us know that growers may contact Centers for assistance in implementing an IPM program.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Knouse asked for IPM Centers to add our support to the labeling issues with SYSCO.**
 - **ACTION ITEM: Sue Ratcliffe will follow up with SYSCO on including IPM Centers and state IPM programs in their IPM training courses.**
 - **ACTION ITEM: Each Center is responsible for following up with SYSCO suppliers to see what IPM Centers can do to help and ask SYSCO processors to be on IPM Center Advisory Councils.**
 - **ACTION ITEM: Follow-up with SYSCO on the results of their IPM surveys. Make this information public through the IPM Centers and use the identified gaps or IPM needs as justification for competitive grants programs.**
 - **ACTION ITEM: Ask SYSCO representatives to be on IPM Center Advisory Councils**

Pesticide Environmental Assessment System – Chuck Benbrook

- Looking at IPM as more of an informational support and biological aspect, not just reducing pesticides.
- Developed first risk model in 1995.
- Why he's here – want a way to take this way of tracking pesticide risk and take it to the next level. Not looking for money, but looking to partner with the Centers and eventually take it to the public sector.
- How the risk model works: all data is government information, and the model encompasses environmental risk (environmental animals), human risk (applicators, handlers) and chronic risk (pesticides through diet). Compare risk data, residue data and use data.
- What the risk model does not take into account: does not include resistance, does not include recipes and blended foods, and does not factor in water.
- Ron Stinner brought up the point that the National Center already has a lot of searchable databases and there is also the NSF Center for IPM which has businesses associated with and works with foreign ag service and agsearch data services.
- Another factor to consider: this model has not been validated nor peer reviewed.
- **ACTION ITEM: Mike Gray, Sue Ratcliffe, Tom Holtzer and Ron Stinner will draft a response to Chuck's proposal.**

Risk/Benefit Assessment for Soil Fumigants – Jonathan Becker

- [See Handout here.](#)
- General approach – similar to CA for risk assessments of fumigants.
- Have two models – determinist or problemistic (two measures, maximum vector or distribution of number of individuals that are exposed.) Two ways to measure information – risks when going out distances from fields and what the risks are at particular distances.

Agricultural Production Practices Utilizing Propane – John Emmitte

- [See Handout here.](#)
- PERA mandates 5 percent of assessment to be used for the benefit of US agriculture via grants, and the Council must coordinate activities with the US ag sector.
- Want to work with USDA and the Centers to collaborate efforts on propane-utilization pest control grant projects.
- Centers can apply for grant, pre-proposals due in the middle of March, but the Council is

- very open to working with Centers and have flexible deadlines.
- Contact John Emmitte – emmitte@hotmail.com, (202) 465-7510 (office) (202) 409-2577 (cell)
- **ACTION ITEM: Each Center will individually publicize the propane RFA on their website.**

Homeland Security/NPDN Update – Bill Hoffman

- [See handout here.](#)
- NPDN and Centers are sending individuals to Brazil for soybean rust training in March.

Coordination of OPMP and EPA Requests – Rick Melnicoe

- System doesn't always work, follow ups don't always give Centers credit for responding, sometimes two different people work on answering the same questions, have to keep going back to same experts and it is a waste of time.
- Need to have OPMP and EPA work together and make the system more effective.
- Need to clarify the deadline field, not just "quick"
- Make the system web based so people can see what has already been asked and who has responded to what.
- **ACTION ITEM: Harold Coble and Jonathan Becker will work with EPA and OPMP to coordinate comment requests including deadlines.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Rick Melnicoe and Ron Stinner will form a subcommittee to address coordinating EPA and OPMP request. *Agenda item for next meeting.**

Thursday, February 3, 2005

NRCS Conservation Programs and IPM Centers – Larry Elworth

- NRCS is a non-profit organization working on large scale implementation projects for IPM.
- The Centers will work to:
 1. Make NRCS information available on IPM Center websites describing in simple terms how the system works.
 2. Provide an opportunity for people in extension to meet with people in NRCS. He's not quite sure how to do this. Needs to be at the county level. Maybe at the state level.
 3. Develop working relationship where extension has expertise and is on the ground providing tech assistance to growers. But also not being perceived as competing with private technical service providers
 4. Develop crop management guidelines with NRCS.
- Finds that many people run into problems with the initial cost of implementing IPM and it can be a barrier. EQUIP program has 60% allotted to livestock and 40% to crops, and want to look at ways to use IPM in environmental conservation program.
- Larry and NRCS work to get people trained in the field to understand USDA programs and participate in them more.
- Two big problems they run into – awareness (growers and extension agents don't know about the program) and technical assistance (grower has to pay a technical service provider, but the grower doesn't get the money until they are audited and prove that they received the service)
- Think the Centers may be able to help with these two problems by making some information available on how the programs work and can provide opportunities for people in extension to meet with NRCS.
- **ACTION ITEM: Lynnae Jess will gather and coordinate a smaller group to work with Larry at NRCS**

Report from EPA/USDA Evaluation Workshop – Jim VanKirk

- [Meeting Minutes from workshop available here.](#)
- Have a follow up meeting August 29th and 30th in Portland, Oregon.
- This system is very different from the PPRS.
- Liz will send her notes on a system that this group is developing to standardize final reports from numerous funding agencies including CSREES and organizations outside the CSREES umbrella.
- **ACTION ITEM: Jim VanKirk will send minutes of performance workshop to directors group.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Linda Herbst will send everyone committee action items and a list of the committee member of the performance workshop.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Each IPM director representative for the performance workshop needs to share information from the committees.**

Electronic Submission of Grant Proposals – Mike Gray

- First time using system, very pleased with it and will continue to use it.
- Had an electronic deadline and then one week after they had to receive an original with all signatures and 2 hard copies.
- Will have more specific instructions next year about what types of files are accepted.
- All reviews were due back to Mike before the meeting so that they could put them all on a diskette.
- Divided proposal into sections – i.e. budget, summary etc. and individuals enter each section individually so they can do it a little bit at a time.

Mid-Term Review of Centers – John Ayers, Mike Fitzner

- Mike Fitzner will now head since Dennis Kopp is changing positions
- Each Center needs to nominate people to serve on the panel and then CSREES will make a decision on who will form the panel.
- Nominated John Ayers, Larry Olsen, Jim VanKirk and Rick Melnicoe
- Conference call February 9 at 11:00 Eastern Time.
- **ACTION ITEM: Mike Fitzner will chair the planning committee for mid-term review. Members of the committee include: John Ayers, Larry Olsen, Rick Melnicoe and Jim VanKirk. By mid-summer, each Center will have the outline of what is needed to prepare for the review.**

Northeastern Regional Conference on Community and Urban IPM – Liz Thomas

- http://nepmc.org/conference2005_index.cfm
- Please hand out print outs and get the word out to as many people as possible.

Update on 5th IPM Symposium – Sue Ratcliff

- The Fifth National IPM Symposium, "Delivering on a Promise," will be held in St. Louis, MO on April 4-6, 2006 at the Adams Mark Hotel.
- <http://www.ipmcenters.org/IPMSymposiumV/>

IPM Questions for NASS – Liz Thomas

- Want to get IPM questions on the NASS survey, need to submit by next week.
- **ACTION ITEM: Mike Gray will draft question and get to Liz who will distribute to everyone for their input and then submit to NASS.**

Dates for Future Meetings and Leadership

- June 8-9 – 8am until 5pm on both days (second half of day two for the Centers only)
- October 4,5,6,7 – block off all days so we can decide if we need an extra half day after the meetings in June.
- Move leadership to Larry Olsen with Jim VanKirk as the second chair. Jim will become the chair when Larry steps down with his term not exceeding two years.
- **ACTION ITEMS: Mike Fitzner will contact Ed Rajotte and Frank Zalom to let them know the dates.**

Additional Action Items:

- Mike Wallace will let the Centers know when the PESP funds are released and the Centers can compete for their management.
- The Northeast, Southern Region and Mike Fitzner will talk about who is maintaining the listserv. Will make a comment at the bottom of each e-mail telling how to review.
- Larry Olsen and Ed Rajotte will continue to try to engage with APHIS on the subject of meshing on-the-ground efforts between the 2 organizations.

Parking Lot:

These items are of interest or concern to the IPM Centers, but are not currently on the table.

- EPA still wants to hold training courses for EPA staff although money to do this is in question. Priorities will be: specialty vegetables, seed, livestock production, and structural pest control.
- Soil fumigants: respond to Jonathan Becker on importance of soil fumigants use. Jonathan Becker will be asking us to help ask a list of questions evaluating soil fumigant needs.
- John Ayers and Ed Rajotte will follow up with SYSCO on the results of their IPM surveys.
- Each Center needs to look at the website (www.cotton.org/journal) and the propane council website (<http://www.propanecouncil.org/>).
- Bob Nowerski is working with IPM training consortium to train federal agents. Contact Bob for more information