

Minutes
Pest Management Centers Directors
and National IPM Committee Joint Meeting
September 26-27, 2002
Washington, D.C

Attendees during the two days:

John Ayers	Jonathan Becker	Wilfred Burr	Chris Cadwallader
Kitty Cardwell	Pat Cimino	Harold Coble	Mike Fitzner
Joel Floyd	Michael Gray	Zane Helsel	Linda Herbst
Bill Hoffman	Mike Hoffmann	Tom Holtzer	Al Jennings
Lynnae Jess	Kathy Kimble-Day	Dennis Kopp	Nikhil Mallampalli
Rick Melnicoe	Russ Mizell	Nicole Mosz	Norm Nesheim
Bob Nowierski	Larry Olsen	Eldon Ortman	Ralph Otto
Ed Rajotte	Susan Ratcliffe	Sandra Sardanelli	Bob Seem
Burleson Smith	Kent Smith	Ron Stinner	Liz Thomas
Jim VanKirk	Wendy Wintersteen	Frank Zalom	

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Rick Melnicoe, Frank Zalom and Eldon Ortman welcomed everyone to Washington, DC. Everyone introduced himself or herself.

Al Jennings provided an OPMP update. EPA met the August 3 deadline to have two-thirds of all tolerances examined. The last one-third of the tolerances will be reviewed in the next four years. Dietary risk assessment is going well as EPA is using science-based data. The worker and ecological risk assessments will be dealt with in later decisions. EPA is responding to requests to make the process more transparent. Cumulative and aggregate risk assessments for carbamates and pyrethroids are coming up.

Therese Murtagh is on detail to Agricultural Marketing Service looking at microbiological contamination of food. They are not finding much contamination in the samples taken at terminal markets and chain store distribution centers.

Methyl bromide is a hot issue. Critical Use Exemptions (CUEs) are being developed. EPA received fifty-four applications for CUEs. EPA hopes to have the initial review of these completed by Thanksgiving. Decisions on which to forward to the international review will be made by the end of January 2003.

Quarantine and pre-shipment uses of methyl bromide are exempt, but need defining. EPA has a

temporary rule on these uses that expires at the end of 2002. They need to make a final rule.

EPA is reviewing Part 158 of 40 CFR concerning tests required for registration of pesticides. They will likely add some basic testing, some human data and a lot of environmental fate. This may add \$40million/yr in costs.

Endangered species and environmental risks are also big issues. Environmental groups are suing EPA over impacts to salmon and other species. These suits are escalating in scope as well as requesting remedial action. EPA has violated the Endangered Species Act. The suits are trying to stop use of pesticides until the cases are heard and remedies are in place.

Dennis Kopp presented a USDA update. RFA (Request for Application) for Pest Management Centers will be bundled with other 406 programs. These RFAs are under review and projected to be release in December or early next year. Turnaround will likely be three months from posting for the Pest Management Centers and two months for the other 406 programs. The same panel will run CAR and RAMP together this year. PMAP is not part of the RFA. However, it will come out at the same time and close with CAR and RAMP.

Dennis also provided a USDA/CSREES Plant Sciences Update for September/October 2002 and a Plant Systems Section Portfolio for Fiscal Year 2002.

Kitty Cardwell discussed the Animal and Plant Diseases and Pest Surveillance and Detection Networks. The networks for plant and animal have been established with \$20 million divided up across states in five regions.

These Centers follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) type model that will coordinate information from various organizations. Regional coordinators are trying to get the network up and running. The PMC's are not heavily involved in the effort in all regions, the Western region is to a degree more than the other 3 regions.

Dr. Ralph Otto, the New Deputy Administrator of CSREES met with the group and commented on the value of IPM and Pest Management Centers in the future of CSREES.

Each Pest Management Center Director presented a quarterly update. The Western Region distributed a handout that highlighted the various Pest Management Strategic Plans conducted in the region and the status of the third and final year of state subcontracts. The North Central Region discussed the activities of the IPM facilitator, fact sheets prepared for West Nile Virus and Multicolored Asian lady beetle, status of year three funding to states, PMSPs, the Center advisory committee and the web site.

The NC region will develop a regional project on soybean rust this year.

The Southern Region will be reviewing third year proposals in November. Additional profiles and

PMSPs are planned in the south. The Southern Region IPM facilitator position announcement was released. The Northeast Region report focused on commodity work groups, publications and the status of PMSPs.

Regional IPM reports were presented from the NE and NC regions. John Ayers provided NE regional report. Mike Gray provided NC regional report. The NC IPM facilitator will put together a report on accomplishments of grantees and dollars invested.

Kent Smith discussed Soybean Rust. USDA is concerned that U.S. Agriculture may not be prepared for the arrival of soybean rust with respect to management options. The disease is currently in Asia, Australia, South America, Africa, and even Hawaii. It is expected to arrive in the continental U.S. in the next few years and could result in a disastrous epidemic in soybeans and several other leguminous crops. USDA is investigating soybean germplasm for disease resistance and fungicide alternatives that may be necessary on an emergency basis. APHIS has developed an excellent website (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/pestdetection/soybean_rust/soybeanrust.html) that discusses various aspects of this disease including a strategic plan designed to help agriculture to prepare for its arrival. Plans are to present comparative fungicide efficacy data and other scientific finding on the Pest Management Centers' websites for use by state extension specialists.

Is the soybean rust a reasonable example to use to develop a general approach to handling exotic invasions in general?

CDC is looking at the West Nile Virus spread as a model of how bioterrorism may unfold.

David Caplan is the national program leader for IPM in the APHIS Center of Plant Health Technology and Sciences out of Raleigh. APHIS is creating a global database of invasive species and looking at pathways and where these things may come from and where we should look for them.

Susan Radcliff presented a National IPM Symposium update. Four announcements have gone out about the meeting. A website is up now for folks to use for information. By the middle of October the sessions will be identified and fleshed out so that by mid November the schedule and speakers will be firmed up.

Harold Coble discussed the IPM Roadmap that will be rolled out at the IPM symposium. It is a living document in preparation.

Eldon Ortman discussed USDA's Vision for next cycle of IPM Centers. Regional Centers will evolve with time - may become?

Vision: need 4 things for success - 1. flexibility to respond to needs and issues and the aggressiveness to do so, 2. decision making opportunities, 3. resources and flexibility to decide how they are used including the flexibility to outsource, 4. general guidance and not prescription.

Details:

Equal funding to each region with flexibility as above.

Involvement of stakeholders will be critical - PMC identify how and who

Identify a management team and a process for how decisions are made

Four-year proposals with 5-year carryover extension

Goals - a progression of activity over 4 years

Harold Coble led a discussion on Regional Pest Management Programs in the future. This was a facilitated session that identified Center clientele, ways in which the Centers serve their clientele and possible scenarios for the PMC evaluations in the future.

Eldon Ortman provided a handout that lists all IPM programs funded by CSREES

A clear mission for the PMCs and what they will accomplish by the Centers will be needed to obtain additional funding.

In the final year of the initial grant, clientele must be engaged in the regions. What kind of information do they need? Are they getting what they need? The impacts and accomplishments of the Centers need to be analyzed. What have we learned from the Centers? What worked well, what did not?

Comments received on the Roadmap were discussed and presented to Harold Coble. Jargon used in the roadmap was troublesome. The question of "who is the audience?" was asked. Define the terms and use an executive summary for the lay audience.

Friday, September 27, 2002

Nikhil Mallampalli, Jonathan Becker and Nicole Mosz gave an EPA Update. Nikhil is now the point of contact with BEAD. Nicole is the Timelines contact person.

BEAD has money for training BEAD staff and regional EPA people to collaborate with PMCs to train folks in crop production practices. The process will probably be via a grant submitted from PMC to do training. Workshops or short courses would be the vehicle, with presentations by experts for one or few crops. Crops would change each year and could be in conjunction with other programs. Unique or regional differences in cropping systems might be one area of training.

Seven Timelines are completed with five in review and more contracted. The primary function of these documents is for the reregistration process. Worker activities need to be stressed - details on exposure such as number of people in field, time there, hand activities, number people per acre. Timelines and crop profiles are different but becoming blurred. EPA wants timelines on crops without data available and crops with a lot of worker exposure issues.

EPA received 54 applications for methyl bromide Critical Use Exemptions. Will have another chance to

apply in mid-2003. Information is available on the web at: www.epa.gov/ozone/mbr/mbrqa.html or www.epa.gov/pesticides.

Tom Holtzer urged people to think not only in terms of single commodity crop profiles, but in terms of cropping systems profiles. He gave the example of 105 million acres in dry land cropping systems. Rotations of wheat, corn, sunflower and millet are common.

Pat Cimino discussed minor crop pesticides in EPA. Michael Braverman (IR-4 HQ) is working closely with EPA while on detail to EPA part time. Both are promoting biological pesticides and IR-4 has an RFP to develop these in late season uses among others on fruit, etc. This includes special uses for decreasing residues nearing harvest and putting safer pesticides in use for critical exposure times - pruning, harvesting, etc. of fruits and vegetables. Registrants don't want to put new chemicals into use for these critical time spots because they fill the risk cup.

Pat discussed the priorities for conventional chemicals in EPA. Methyl bromide alternatives is first, 2. OP alternatives, 3. other reduced risks chemicals, 4. OP alternatives that are not reduced risk, 6. EPA identified critical crops, 7. IR-4, 8. other minor crops, 9. other registrations. Look at www.epa.gov/opprd001/workplan/newchem.html for registration plans of EPA on specific chemicals in the pipeline.

Resistance is becoming more of a problem. EPA will have to figure out how to keep resistance management programs going with old and new tools.

In order to reduce the cost impact of labor, there is a need for more plant growth regulators that increase ability to mechanically harvest. These plant growth regulators can hold fruit on the plant, allowing simultaneous ripening, etc. Mechanization is imperative to reduce growers' costs.

The trend is for fewer herbicides to be developed, as GMOs with herbicide resistance will be taking over market.

The Budget office is considering in next cycle making subcontracts able to be managed by the PMC as long as it was below a certain dollar amount (\$15,000).

Centers will participate in the IPM Symposium concerning developing partnerships.

Joel Floyd, Plant Prot. And Quarantine, Riverdale, MD discussed APHIS activities. The APHIS web site is: www.aphis.usda.gov. Enhancements are being made to the NAPIS database. APHIS is looking to establish relationships to have more eyes looking for pests. CPHST (Center for Plant Health Science and Technology) interfaces with the research community to support APHIS programs. A web site on invasive species is: www.invasivespecies.gov.

Ron Stinner updated the group on the PMCenters web site. The site has been redesigned based upon

recommendations of users and the working group. There is a lot of new EPA and NASS information on site and also entryways to get to labels.

The next meeting will be held in Washington, DC on February 19-20, 2003.