

Agenda Item S5

Multistate Research Committee Report

Presenter: David Morrison

1.) Background:

The Multistate Research Committee (MRC) is pleased to welcome Dr. Steve Workman (KY) as a new member for 2010 and wishes to thank Dr. Tom Klindt for his many years of excellent service as an MRC member. Other committee members are: Ed King, David Morrison (Chair), Craig Nessler, Clarence Watson, and Eric Young.

During the 12-month period since the 2009 Spring Meeting, the MRC reviewed a total of 6 activities. Approvals were as follows: the SDC334 proposal was approved as S-1045, the S_temp2302 proposal was approved as SCC-76, and the SDC337 proposal was approved as S-1046. Approval was deferred on the following proposals: SDC333, SDC336, and SDC338. The MRC continues to encourage AAs to provide SDCs with copies of Appendix H (the MRC Evaluation Form), which will alert these committees to the evaluation criteria being used by the MRC. This should help facilitate an increase in the number of proposals approved after initial MRC review.

The following is a current status report, prepared by Donna Pearce, of MRF activities sorted by termination date. This information is also available on the SAAESD web site.

Projects/Activities Terminating 9/30/10

- S-294** – “Postharvest Quality and Safety in Fresh-cut Vegetables and Fruits” – Reuben Moore, MS
- S-1017** – “Improved Systems for Management of Economically-Important Arthropod Pests Attacking Pecan” – Clarence Watson, OK
- S-1018** – “Irrigation Management for Humid and Sub-Humid Areas” – Winston Hagler, NC
- S-1021** – “Managing and Marketing Environmental Plants for Improved Production, Profitability, and Efficiency” – Craig Nessler, TX
- S-1022** – “Basic and Applied Aspects of Bacterial Source Tracking” – Jonathan Edelson, OK
- S-1024** – “Discovery of Entomopathogens and Their Integration and Safety in Pest Management Systems” – David Boethel, LA
- SCC33** – “Cooperative Variety Testing Programs in the Southern Region” – Clarence Watson, OK
- SERA003** – “Southern Region Information Exchange Group for IPM” – David Monks, NC
- SERA005** - "Sweet Potato Collaborators Conference" – David Monks, NC
- SERA008** – “Fescue Endophyte Research and Extension” – George Askew, SC
- SERA023** – “Management of Cotton Insects” – James Harper, NC
- SERA030** – “Southern Natural Resource Economics Committee” – Bob Shulstad, GA
- SERA035** – “Delta Region Farm Management and Agricultural Policy Working Group” – David Boethel, LA
- SERA041** – “Beef Cattle Production Utilizing Forages in the Southeast to Integrate Research and Extension Programs across State Boundaries” – David Morrison, LA

Terminating Without Replacement

- SERA023** – “Management of Cotton Insects” – James Harper, NC

Replacement Projects/Activities Approved

S-1046 (SDC337; replaced S1015) – “Improved management of plant-parasitic nematodes through modern diagnostic tools and increased use of host resistance” – Ron Lacewell, TX

S_temp2382 (SCC-33) – “Cooperative Variety Testing Programs” – Clarence Watson, OK

S_temp2402 (re-write for S-1021) - “Sustainable Practices, Economic Contributions, Consumer Behavior, and Labor Management in the U.S. Environmental Horticulture Industry” – Craig Nessler, TX

Development Committees Approved

SDC339 (S1017) – “Improved Systems for Management of Economically-Important Arthropod Pests Attacking Pecan” – Clarence Watson, OK

Action Requested: For information

2.) Proposed merging of SAC-5 and NCAC-16 (Biological & Agricultural Engineering, BAE)

Background:

The two groups have been meeting together for a number of years and currently have joint officers. The western, northeastern, and some international department heads have been participating with NCAC-16, since they don't have their own committees. The proposal is to have a single BAE advisory committee. There is not a large number of BAE departments nationwide, so the idea behind consolidation seems logical to the ACs. Dick Straub (WI) and Jonathan Pote (MS) are the NCAC-16 and SAC-05 advisors, respectively. Both think the idea has merit. Dick is willing to continue being an advisor to the larger group. A proposal for merger that describes how the merged group will address the individual regional needs for review of multistate proposals needs to be developed.

Action Requested:

Discussion with possible conditional approval.

3.) National Excellence in Multistate Research Award (SAAESD Nominee)

Background:

This is the third year for this award and it is the MRC's responsibility to review nomination materials and submit a recommendation to SAAESD for consideration.

- 1) Using the process and criteria for selection of our regional nominee approved at the 2008 Spring Meeting, the MRC reviewed the nomination forms of two S projects submitted for consideration. The two nominated projects were: **S-1032 and S-1044**.
- 2) Ranking of the two projects was by email to the Chair with a deadline of March 10. MRC members were unanimous in their ranking.

Action Requested:

The MRC recommends that SAAESD approve S-1032 (*Improving the Sustainability of Livestock and Poultry Production in the United States*) as the Southern Region nominee for the National Excellence in Multistate Research Award (*see attached nomination document*).