

Agenda Item S5

NRSP-4 Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses

Presenter: Mary Duryea

Background:

Fifty years ago, the Directors of the State Agricultural Experiment Stations created a program to assist growers of fruits, vegetables, herbs and other specialty crops with their pest management needs. The IR-4 Project (NRSP-4) has grown to be the major resource for supplying reduced risk pest management tools for specialty crops by developing research data to support registration clearances. IR-4 is a national multi-state project designed to link and facilitate research efforts with land grant universities, SAES, USDA, EPA, DoD, commodity organizations and the crop protection industry.

Specialty crops include most fruits, vegetables, herbs, ornamentals and other high value horticultural crops. They are high value/low acreage crops and make up about 40% of U.S. agricultural production with over \$45 billion in sales.

Mission: To facilitate registration of sustainable pest management technology for specialty crops and minor uses.

Some 2014 Accomplishments include:

- **51 New Specialty Crop Pesticide Tolerances:** US EPA approved 51 new pesticide tolerances supporting 309 potential new use registrations for conventional and reduced risk pest control.
- **Biopesticide and Organic Support Program Funded 23 Projects:** The Biopesticide and Organic Support Program funded 23 research projects to provide data to support future biopesticide registrations. Registration activities assisted in supporting 125 new uses being added to registrations.
- **Ornamental Crop Uses Impacted by IR-4 work:** The Ornamental Horticulture Program data were utilized in 6 registrations and label amendments. This supported more than 4,600 ornamental species.
- **Public Health Pesticide Program:** IR-4 provided major support for new vector control uses for existing insecticides. This year data supported Experimental Use Permits for insecticides in autodissemination devices to control container breeding mosquitoes.

ACTIONS:

NRSP-4 Project Renewal:

As part of the NRSP-4 Project Renewal, USDA led a Peer Review of IR-4 and its strategic plan in November 2014. Rob Hedberg, USDA Director of the National SARE Program and National Program Leader for Minor Use Pesticides, was the facilitator of the Review.

The Review Panel members were:

Steven Slack, Experiment Station Director, Ohio State University (chair)

Marion Johnson, EPA

Lori Berger, California agricultural consultant and stakeholder

Deb Fravel, ARS/USDA

As Rob Hedberg summarizes, “The panel members were very thorough in their review and critique of the program and they are very supportive of the program and the funding request.”

The Review Panel concluded, “There is no question that the Panel enthusiastically supports APPROVAL of the NRSP-4 Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses proposal for renewal for another 5 year period by the SAES.”

Action Taken: The NRSP-4 Renewal Proposal was submitted to the State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors in January 2015.

Action Requested: At the fall national meeting, Directors will vote on the project renewal.