



IR-4's National Education Conference

What's Happening

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The IR-4 Project

IR-4's National Education Conference



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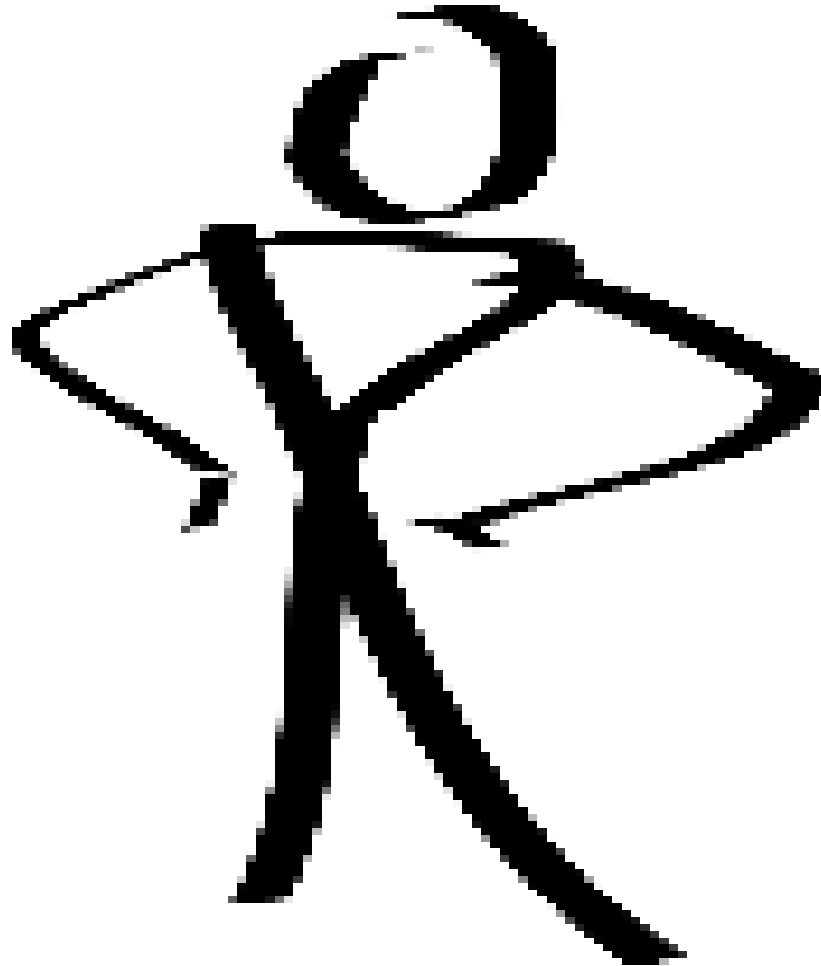
Ken Samoil

Peter Sturman

Overview

- People
- Successes
- Challenges & Threats
- Path Forward
- CLC Activity

People Update



Dick Guest (1931-2017)



Robin Bellinder (1945-2015)



Robin Bellinder Graduate Student Fund.

The fund will be established *“to provide financial support for graduate students working on vegetables crops, with a preference given to projects with a weed science emphasis.*

A colorful, circular foil balloon with a scalloped edge. The balloon is divided into several sections of different colors and patterns: a blue center, a red section with orange polka dots, a yellow section with orange squares, a purple section with purple polka dots, and a green section with green stripes. There are also sections with solid colors and stars. The text "Happy Retirement" is written in a silver, cursive font across the blue center. There are also silver streamers and stars scattered around the balloon.

Happy Retirement

Retirements

- Bob Hollingworth-NCR Regional Director
- Diane Infante-IR-4 Data Manager
- Marty Marshall-SOR Regional Director
- Edith Lurvey-NER Reg. Field Coordinator
- Dan Rossi-NE Region Admin. Advisor
- Joe DeFrancesco-OR State Liaison & FRD
- Paul Schwartz-ARS Program Manager
- Becky Sisco-WSR Reg. Field Coordinator



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Recent Success-Food Prog.

- 1000 new uses approved in 2016,
 - Following record number of approvals (1175) in 2015
 - Registrations that are critically important to specialty crops under challenging regulatory conditions
- Expansion of EPA crop groupings, domestically & internationally

Challenges

2016 Field Program

- Significant changes from last year's FUW
 - Flubendiamide
 - Specific PPD requirements
 - Emerging regulatory concerns
 - Overcommitted on tropical crops

Success

- Over 40,000 uses registered for specialty crops and minor uses since 1963
- Majority are reduced/lower risk technology and registered in the last 15 years

Benefits

- **Growers**

- Legal access to safe & effective pest management technology.....grow high quality crops

- **Food Processors & Food Retailers**

- Consistent supply of materials

- **Public**

- Plentiful supply of fruits & vegetables that contribute to a healthy diet & plants/flowers that that enhance the environment

- **Economy**

- IR-4 contributes \$7.2 Billion to annual US GDP/supports 104,650 jobs

Global Efforts

- Domestic growers want access to international markets
- Lack of MRL harmonization is a trade barrier
- Funds from FAS to “enhance” domestic data development to support harmonized MRLs
 - More field trials/more decline samples/additional metabolites
- Mentor international “IR-4s”; cooperate in joint data development

Other International Success

- IR-4's Global Residue Studies
 - Tomato - key part of EPA global “exchangeability” proposal
 - Blueberry - registered
- Global Partners
 - Capacity building efforts
 - EU Coordination Facility
- Global Minor Use Summits/Workshops
- Dan Kunkel - IUPAC Award

In the middle of a
difficulty lies
opportunity.

-Albert Einstein

Challenges/Threats

Product Performance Data (PPD) Development

- IR-4 being asked to develop more PPD – why?
 - Higher “bar”/California registration
 - Liability
 - Lack of research scientists
- More \$ for PPD (from IR-4 & Industry)
- PPD Team
 - Appropriate focus
 - Process improvements
 - Integration of biopesticides and conventional for R² approach

Challenges/Threats

University Service Fees (indirect costs/overhead)

- IR-4's Federal authorizing language does not allow universities to charge overhead
- Universities under intense fiscal challenges; some can no longer absorb these costs
 - Cornell ended IR-4 involvement
 - Others (e.g. Univ. of FL, UCD) to follow?
- USDA believes they can modify agreement, allow Universities to collect 10% overhead
- Without new funds – **A Devastating Outcome**

Challenges/Threats

EPA

IR-4 & Specialty Crop Community are significantly concerned b/c:

- FQPA fears coming true – wholesale cancellations of chemical classes (OP's)
- Reliance on non-core studies, such as epidemiology studies
- Use of conservative models that overestimate risk
- Latest challenge - funding cuts at EPA; threaten specialty crops more than major crops

Challenges/Threats

Mergers in Industry

- $1 + 1 < 2$
- Paralysis by Analysis
- Higher economic bar for new uses
- Less investment in new technology
- Opportunities for smaller companies & emerging technology

Challenges/Threats

US Government Funding

- IR-4 funding flat for last five years, lower \$ than in 2009
- Expenses continue to rise
- IR-4 has had to reduce research to balance budget
- Future funding – the new abnormal

Path Forward Process

Started October 2015

Components

- Assess indirect cost issue
- Perform an Organizational Assessment
- Analyze the impact of a 10% reduction in funding
- Explore potential sources of new revenue
- Communication with specialty crop/pest management community

Need for IR-4 Continues to Increase

- EPA regulatory requirements are increasing while industry consolidates → more minor uses with higher development costs
- Specialty crop community needs access to international markets → increased size & complexity of IR-4 studies
- The crop protection industry is requiring more robust crop safety and product performance testing on specialty crops → increased IR-4 research costs

What have we learned:

- Universities will continue aggressive indirect cost recovery
- Organizational Assessment → recommendation to maintain existing network of research centers; seek savings from process improvements
- Focus on increased revenue, aggressively seek new funds:
 - Solicit new funding partners from the produce supply chain
 - Embrace contract research
 - New grants from public and philanthropic sources
 - Coordinated effort by specialty crop community to have Congress upwardly adjust IR-4 funding

Action Items

What can you do:

- Become an active participant in efforts by commodity associations/food processors and other organizations to educate and advocate for increased funding for IR-4 from the US Congress; **Current request is to increase IR-4 funding from \$11.9 million to \$19 million**
- Private sector - establish or increase an annual unrestricted contribution to IR-4
- Educate others in your networks about the contributions of IR-4 to crop protection and food production; let them know of the critical fiscal challenges IR-4 is facing; please help us make connections with others who can help

Commodity Liaison Committee

New and expanding membership

- Twelve new members in the last 3 years
 - Mike Bledsoe, Chair
 - Todd Scholz, Vice Chair
- A new sense of organized “activism”
- Congressional Liaison Sub-Committee:
Lori Berger, Allen Mize, Laura Phelps, Keith Pitts,
Steve Salisbury, Bob Simerly, Dennis Tristao.
- Appropriation process vs. Farm Bill

The Grand Challenge-2050

Where will we
find enough food
for ~~9~~ billion?

10

THANK YOU!

