



FOOD USE WORKSHOP

September 15 -17, 2026

AGENDA

Doubletree by Hilton Austin | Austin, TX

***Times and agenda items are subject to change. Times are in Central Daylight Time (CDT) and are fluid and subject to change—check your email for updates.*

Day One: Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Time (CDT)	Session	Location
7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet	Phoenix South
	Registration	Prefunction
8:00 – 8:10 a.m.	Introduction	Phoenix Central
8:10 – 8:15 a.m.	Welcome from IR-4 Project Management Committee Chair	
8:15 – 9:00 a.m.	IR-4 Project Update from IR-4 Project Executive Director	
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Commodity Liaison Committee Update from Committee Chair	
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	– Break and Refreshments –	Prefunction
10:00 – 11:10 a.m.	U.S. EPA Update	Phoenix Central
11:10 - 11:30 a.m.	Changes with Chemical/Commodity Complexities and the Impacts on Lab Capacity and Study Completion	
11:30 – 11:40 a.m.	Awards & Recognition	
11:40 – noon	Attendee Introductions	

Noon – 1:30 p.m.	– Lunch –	Phoenix South
Priority Setting Begins		
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Priority Setting: Weed Science	Phoenix Central
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	– Break and Refreshments –	Prefunction
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Working Group Discussions	Phoenix Central
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Reception at Hotel	Dovers + Courtyard

Day Two: Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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Time (MDT)	Session	Location
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet	Phoenix South
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Unmet Needs in Specialty Crop Pest Management: Connecting Problems with Potential Solutions	Phoenix Central
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Priority Setting: Entomology	Phoenix Central
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	– Break and Refreshments –	Prefunction
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Priority Setting: Entomology	Phoenix Central
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.	– Lunch –	Phoenix South
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Working Group Discussions	Phoenix Central
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Priority Setting: Plant Pathology	
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	– Break and Refreshments –	Prefunction
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Priority Setting: Plant Pathology	Phoenix Central
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Working Group Discussions	

Day Three: Thursday, September 17, 2026

***Times are in CDT and are fluid and subject to change—check your email for updates.*

Time (MDT)	Session	Location
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet	Phoenix South
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Finalize Priorities: All Disciplines	Phoenix Central
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	– Break and Refreshments –	Prefunction
10:30 – noon	Finalize Priorities: All Disciplines	Phoenix Central

Notes

Event Materials:



The latest event materials, such as prioritization lists, will be updated **daily** and posted on the event web page (see below).

Registered attendees will also receive an email when updated materials are posted (to the email address provided at registration).

ir4project.org/events/2026-food-use-workshop/

Post Meeting Survey:

After the workshop, please complete the **Post Meeting Survey** by scanning this QR code. We appreciate your feedback—it helps us plan even better future events!

The **survey link will also be emailed to participants after the event (at the address used to register).*



PROJECT STATUSES

The project status indicates the data needed by the manufacturer and regulatory agencies to pursue registration of the desired use for a pesticide. The statuses of projects eligible for nomination at the **Food Use Workshop (FUW)** are as follows:

Under Evaluation: A project **Under Evaluation** is eligible for nomination, but its status must be updated to either “**Potential**” or “**Researchable**” by the manufacturer at (or before) the FUW to be designated as an “A” or an “H+” priority and receive funding. This typically involves a new **Project Clearance Request (PCR)** not fully vetted by the manufacturer. IR-4 asks the manufacturer if it supports pursuing registration of the proposed use, and what data (residue, efficacy, and/or crop safety) are necessary.

Potential, need E/CS data before approval for residue study: The manufacturer requires efficacy and/or crop safety (E/CS) data to assess product performance before giving IR-4 approval to conduct residue studies. If the results are acceptable to the manufacturer, the PCR will be reclassified as **Researchable** and will be eligible for nomination at future FUWs to initiate the necessary residue work.

Researchable: These projects are approved by the manufacturer to move forward, but more data are needed. There are four types of researchable statuses:

Researchable, only residue data needed	Only residue data are needed to establish a tolerance and pursue product registration.
Researchable, only E/CS data needed	Only E/CS data are needed to add the pest/crop to the product label.
Researchable, Residue & E/CS data needed	Both residue and confirmatory E/CS data are needed to pursue registration. Trials can begin simultaneously.
Researchable, E/CS ongoing, residue data needed	E/CS data are in the process of being completed, and only residue data are needed.

Labeled, need E/CS data to add crop/pest to label & Tolerance established, need E/CS data to add crop/pest: Pesticide tolerance is established by U.S. EPA, but E/CS data are required to add a new pest, commodity, or use pattern to the product label.

Labeled, residue data needed for export: A pesticide tolerance/registration has been approved for domestic use. Additional residue data are required for international trade.

PRIORITY RATING SCALES

Rating scales are used at the Food Use Workshop to rank and prioritize projects. Projects that are classified as “**Potential,**” “**Researchable, need E/CS data only,**” “**Labeled, needs E/CS data to add crop/pest to label,**” or “**Tolerance established; needs E/CS data to add crop/pest**” are rated on a scale from **Low (L) to High Plus (H+)**:

L	Low priority; the need is marginal
M	Medium priority; the need is relevant but can wait more than a year
H	High priority; the need is significant but can wait a year
H+	Highest priority; the need is critical and must be addressed now

All other projects are rated on an **A-F scale***:

A	Project is a critical need; research will begin at the first available time
B	Project is important; due to resource limitations, the research must wait
C	Project can wait
D/E/F	Project is not nominated by at least one region for one (D), two (E), or three (F) consecutive years (“F” projects no longer shown in system)

STOPLIGHT ANALYSIS

The U.S. EPA provides a stoplight analysis tool to advise IR-4 on **potential regulatory issues that may limit federal registration of a particular use**. The EPA reviews projects before the Food Use Workshop, and **a color is attributed to each project**:

 RED	NOT eligible for nomination and not considered at FUW because there is no path forward towards EPA approval at this time.
 ORANGE	NOT eligible for nomination and not considered at FUW because it presents significant hurdles
 YELLOW	Eligible for nomination, but presents some hurdles
 GREEN	Eligible for nomination and presents no hurdles
 BLUE	Eligible for nomination but requires further review by EPA.



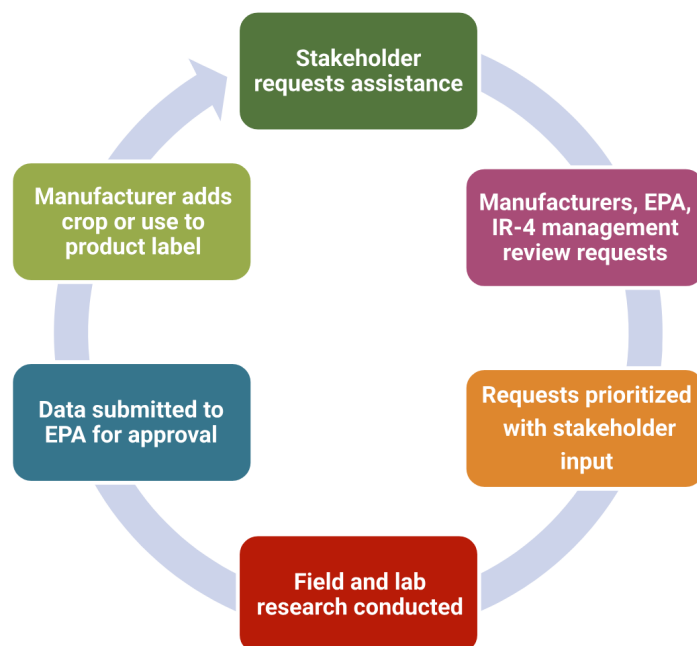
IR-4's Research Cycle

Guided by the needs of specialty crop growers

The **Food Use Workshop** is a pivotal event in our annual research cycle. After a busy season of regional priority-setting meetings, stakeholders gather here to shape the research agenda for the coming year, prioritizing the most critical, high-impact projects. We invite you to get involved by connecting with your regional IR-4 office and voicing your pest management needs throughout the year. The graphic below depicts the cycle for **Residue and Product Performance** work under the **Food Crop Program**.

Get involved:

1. Contact your Regional Field Coordinator and join regional priority-setting meetings
2. Submit a Project Clearance Request (PCR)
3. Nominate top projects you'd like to see prioritized prior to future Food Use Workshops



Learn more:



*Scan to connect
with your Regional
Field Coordinator.*



*Scan to visit the
IR-4 website.*



*Scan to sign up for
the IR-4 newsletter.*

This workshop is made possible by the support and engagement of our sponsors and stakeholders—thank you!

Thank You, IR-4 Event Sponsors!

Platinum



Gold



Silver



2026



We hope you enjoy the workshop!

Scan to view the event web page—prioritization lists will be posted here.

www.ir4project.org/events/2026-food-use-workshop

