




Director's Notes

President Bush's Budget Proposal:


By now you may have heard about President Bush's proposed USDA budget for the fiscal year 2006, which includes many changes from the current budget. The proposal includes major changes for agricultural research and extension programs in general and for IPM programs in particular. Hatch funds, a major source of funding for research at land grant universities, are slated for a 50 percent cut. The line that currently funds IPM Centers, Methyl Bromide Alternatives, Risk Avoidance and Mitigation (RAMP) and Crops at Risk (CAR) has been eliminated.



We are hopeful that IPM funding, including funding for IPM Centers, will not be entirely lost but rather will be moved to new lines. We are aware of two ways this might occur. The first is for funding to be included in a newly proposed \$75 million program for Agricultural Experiment Stations. The second, now thought to be more likely, is that IPM programs would be folded into funding for the National Research Initiative (NRI). Either of these would likely involve much higher limits on indirect costs that host institutions can charge – perhaps from the current 20 percent level to 47 percent.

Please keep in mind that the President's budget is only the starting point of the process; we cannot predict what the final budget, which must be approved by both chambers of Congress and signed by the President, will look like. We at SRIPMC will do our best to keep you informed as developments occur.


Soybean Rust



Anyone who deals with soybeans in the U.S. has been gearing up for the arrival of soybean rust (SBR), a devastating disease of soy and other legumes that originated in Asia, has completely infested Africa and most of South America, and was confirmed in the U.S. last fall. I recently spent 10 days with more than two dozen Extension specialists, researchers, farmers and consultants touring farms and soy handling facilities in Brazil to prepare for monitoring and managing the disease in the coming season. Using funds provided by USDA, SRIPMC and our counterpart the North Central IPM Center were able to fund the participation of myself, Extension specialists from Mississippi, Illinois and Indiana, the head of the Ohio State Plant Diagnostic Lab, and the plant pathology coordinator of the Southern Plant Diagnostic Network. In addition, our Center covered expenses for Harold Lambert, an agricultural consultant from Louisiana. Other Louisiana Extension specialists and agents also participated.

We learned a great deal about how to monitor and identify SBR in the field, the impact of SBR on yields and value and strategies to control the disease in the field. The entire group is committed to teaching others here as much as we can to optimize our preparation level in the coming season.

Methyl Bromide Alternatives Workshop



Dr. Frank Louws and Robert Welker of North Carolina State University recently presented a very successful workshop on methyl bromide alternatives. SRIPMC was able to help by providing travel funds for participants from neighboring states. (see article on page 4).

IPM Enhancement Grants Program

The Request for Applications for the IPM Enhancement Grants Program was released in February. Deadline for receipt of proposals is April 1. (see article on page 2)

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IPM Enhancement Grant Program RFA Released

The Southern Region IPM Center (SRIPMC) is pleased to announce the release of the IPM Enhancement Grants Program RFA for 2005. Application deadline is Friday, April 1, 2005.

The RFA has four (4) programmatic areas: State Contacts; IPM documents; Special Projects; and Critical and Emerging Issues. Funding is open to all organizations in the Southern Region, and the RFA can be found online at <http://www.sripmc.org/IPMenhancement>. Starting this year, all proposals must be submitted in both printed and

electronic formats. Electronic submission is through the web page: <http://www.sripmc.org/IPMenhancement/>. Online submission must be completed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 2005, and a single, printed original with all required signatures must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 2005.

Profile: Doug Johnson, Ph.D.

An Extension Professor of Entomology and Integrated Pest Management Coordinator with the University of Kentucky, Johnson joined the university in 1980 as an Extension Entomologist. He took on the role of IPM Coordinator in 1989, and was promoted from Extension Entomologist to his current position of Extension Professor in 1990.

Johnson started out his education by receiving a Bachelors degree in Biology, but his advisor steered him down the entomology path, and Johnson went on to earn his Masters of Science and Doctoral degrees in Entomology from the University of Florida in 1977 and 1980 respectively.

“My undergraduate advisor was actually an entomologist and he later joined the entomology department at the University of Florida,” said Johnson. “When I completed my undergrad degree he presented me with the opportunity to do field work with him and it is just the path I’ve followed since.”

Johnson’s Masters thesis concentrated on the response of velvetbean caterpillar to its sex pheromone, and his Ph.D. dissertation examined developmental models for the velvetbean caterpillar in association with a nucleopolyhedrosis virus. Both of these projects were based in the concepts of IPM, and when he joined the University of Kentucky in 1980 he brought with him the general theory of integration.

“I came out of an insect pathology laboratory looking at fungi and viruses as possible biological control agents, and did very little with pesticides during my graduate school experience,” said Johnson. “I worked with people at the laboratory that were systems people before everyone used the term integration.”

Today, Johnson still works with IPM systems and programs, but to him, IPM is more of a philosophy.

“Most of the people I work with think of IPM as a program, something that you have to sign up for or something you have to do,” said Johnson. “But I think of IPM as more of an outlook on the management of pests. I think that for a number of reasons, such as environmental and human safety as well as economics, the over use of pesticides is not something we want to have in place. But when you boil it down to its essence, you don’t want to over use any one technique, whether it is rotation or pesticides or planting data. Whenever you apply one single control measure to a biological organism it is going to find a way to go around it. So through IPM we need to employ as many different techniques as we can get people to employ.”

Currently within his entomology extension group, Johnson has lead responsibility for soybean, grain sorghum, small grains and stored grains. Within these crops, Johnson works with applied research in insects as vectors of field crop pathogens and the tools used to manage these situations. Johnson is currently researching in two areas within wheat and soybeans. Within wheat he is looking into grain aphids that vector barley yellow dwarf virus. In addition, he is researching bean leaf beetle, and soybean aphids and their associated viruses in soybeans.

(Continued on Page 3...)



Doug Johnson, Extension Professor of Entomology and IPM Coordinator for Kentucky



“I like to work in the concepts of IPM as ‘THE’ method of pest control that provides management for pests and protection for the environment.”

-Dr. Doug Johnson

Johnson Continued from Page 2...

In addition to his Extension responsibilities, Johnson guest teaches a few lectures and labs in courses that are run by other faculty on the main campus. He also spends time in the classrooms and on tours with primary and secondary school students to introduce them to the world of insects, spiders and other related arthropods.

Johnson works with three others in his extension entomology group producing the Kentucky Pest News and ENTFACTS. The Kentucky

Pest News is available at: <http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/kpn/kpnhome.htm> and ENTFACTS is available at: <http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Entomology/entfacts.htm>.

For more information about the program at the University of Kentucky, contact Doug Johnson at 270-365-7541 ext. 214 or doug.johnson@uky.edu

Fuchs Named Regents Fellow

Dr. Tom Fuchs, Texas Cooperative Extension's State Integrated Pest Management coordinator at San Angelo, was named a Regents Fellow by Texas A&M University's Board of Regents.

The ceremony honoring Fuchs and other award winners took place Jan. 27 during a luncheon hosted by board members in the university's Memorial Student Center.

Fuchs earned a bachelor of science degree, a master of science degree and a doctorate – all in entomology from Texas A&M. He has been with the Texas A&M University System Agriculture Program for 33 years. He started as a researcher of cotton, vegetable, grain sorghum and sugarcane pests with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Weslaco.



Tom Fuchs, IPM Coordinator and Regents Fellow

In 1979 Fuchs was named Extension's District 7 entomologist at San Angelo. In that role he worked in agricultural pest management with the district's then-17 counties in West Central Texas.

Fuchs was named to his current position as IPM Coordinator in 1993. With that promotion, he became responsible for the statewide program that now has 27 full-time, county level faculty.

Since 1999, Fuchs has served on numerous Extension committees, as president of the West Texas-New Mexico Chapter of the American Registry of Professional Entomologists, president of the Southwestern Entomological Society, and on the governing board of the Entomological Society of America and on the board of the American Registry of Professional Entomologists.

Fuchs is the chair of the National Boll Weevil Eradication technical advisory committee which provides technical advice to the National Cotton Council's Boll Weevil Action Committee. He also serves on the advisory council of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Southern Region IPM Center in North Carolina. The center directs grants and integrated pest management information for 13 states – including Texas – and two territories. Fuchs' achievements as a research and Extension entomologist include:

- Importing a parasitic wasp which provided biological control of the primary insect pest of sugarcane in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas;
- Determining planting date windows so grain sorghum could be planted in the Rio Grande Valley without sustaining economic sorghum midge damage;
- Leading the development of delayed uniform cotton planting to manage the boll weevil in the Southern Rolling Plains;
- Collaborating with other scientists to develop a boll weevil overwintering survival and spring emergence computer model;
- Experimentally establishing the relationship between cotton aphids and various components of yield leading to the development of an economic threshold for Texas cotton; and Collaborating with animal scientists and entomological researchers in Texas and the western United States to develop the research base for control of external parasites of sheep and goats.

In his current position, he led the Texas IPM Program since 1993. He has also instrumental in the development of a number of programs, including a new employee mentoring program and an internship program which are now being used agency-wide. The internship program provides opportunities for college students in agriculture to gain field-level training and experience in analyzing plant and pest problems. Forty-one students from eight colleges and universities in Texas and New Mexico have taken part in the program so far.

Fuchs' awards have included individual and team Superior Service Awards from Extension, the Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence from the Texas A&M Agriculture Program, the Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award from the Texas A&M Former Students Association, the National Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension from the Entomological Society of America, the USDA Honor Award for Excellence, and the Governor's Clean Texas 2000 Award for Environmental Excellence.

The Regents Fellow Award honors the work of service, Extension and research professionals who have made a significant contribution to citizens of Texas and beyond. Recipients are given a commemorative medallion and a salary supplement for three years. Texas Cooperative Extension, which employs about 1,400 people across the state, can nominate two employees yearly for this award. Nominations are voted on and approved by the Board of Regents.

Fuchs and his wife, Janis, live in San Angelo and have two grown children and three grandchildren.

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Methyl Bromide Alternatives Agent Training Workshop

Frank Louws and Rob Welker with the Plant Pathology Department at North Carolina State University organized the Methyl Bromide Alternatives Agent Training workshop held February 23rd through the 24th in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The meetings covered a broad range of topics including some basic training on the production systems affected by the loss of methyl bromide and the key pests growers are trying to control. This included overviews of pathogens and weeds, and a look at some of the crops affected by the loss of methyl bromide including strawberries and tomatoes. The workshop discussed chemicals available to fill the methyl bromide void, and looked at some of the issues that need

to be considered with adoption of these new chemicals. The workshop also reviewed some of the non-registered chemicals that may make their way into the picture in the future, and discussed some of the non-chemical tools available such as biofumigation and solarization.

In addition, the workshop included hands-on training sessions where individuals looked at application equipment and other tools that have proved useful with the new chemicals. Louws and Welker discussed the results of the NC State trials performed in North Carolina and neighboring states, and offered their best current recommendation for replacing methyl bromide.

The workshop trained 25 Extension agents from

North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia. In addition, 11 faculty and staff members from NCSU were presenters and/or participants. In addition, Joe Noling from University of Florida, Dan Botts with the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, Dennis Kopp with USDA, and a local fumigant distributor presented.

“Overall, the feedback from the agents was excellent,” said Welker. “A lot of discussion was generated during the two days, and I think everyone came away from the training with something they could use to help the growers in their areas.”

National IPM Centers' Directors Meeting

The National IPM Centers' Directors met February 1st through the 3rd along with CSREES, EPA, OPMP, SYSCO and NPDN. The meetings were successful in providing updates, and providing opportunities to form new relationships with potential partners.

The Northeastern IPM center started off the meetings by announcing and introducing their newest Co-Director of the Center, Carrie Koplinka-Loehr. Koplinka-Loehr has an extensive background in IPM communications, education and facilitation, and previously served as the leader of the New York State IPM Program's Communications Team.

Mike Fitzner gave a CSREES update with information about the latest Plant Science Update (available at: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/newsletters/plantsciencesupdate/psupdate.html>). Al Jennings provided an OPMP update with information about soybean rust, perchlorate, methyl bromide, and the specialty crop competitiveness act. Nikhil Mallampalli followed with an EPA update with information about the BEAD training courses, endangered species issues, and the human testing proposal.

The individual Centers provided updates with the latest information from each. For more information about the Centers, visit their individual websites.

The Southern Region Center recently completed their RIPM grants program and received 47 proposals, with their review panels meeting during February. In addition, the Center is renaming the Center grants as IPM Enhancement Grants with the RFA going out in the end of February. The Advisory Council and Steering Committee Meetings held in December were very successful in creating IPM working groups and subcommittees. The website is coming along slower than planned, but still moving ahead. The website subcommittee began review and the Center is currently developing resource database.

The North Central Center completed the quarterly update of Center activities for their stakeholders to help prioritize IPM needs. The north central region no longer funds state contacts, instead their IPM Coordinators fill this role. The Center held a steering committee meeting in November who made significant recommendations for the Center. In the RIPM program 49 proposals were submitted with 8 funded. The Center used an electronic submission system for the RIPM grants program and they were very happy with the results.

The Western Region Center distributed the first edition of their newsletter “The Western Front.” The newsletter is available electronically with some printed copies to distribute to experiment station directors etc. The 2005 WIPMC Sympo-

sium: Water, Wildlife and Pesticides in the West: Pest Management's Contribution to Solving Environmental Problems will be held on August 31 and September 1, 2005, in Portland, Oregon. The WIPMC completed funding successful proposals from two RFAs issued in the summer of 2004.

The Northeastern Community and Urban IPM Conference is March 15-16 in New Hampshire. In addition, the Center has the following meetings planned: Center staff will facilitate the Northeast Research, Extension, and Academic Program-IPM (NEREAP-IPM) annual meeting on March 14, 2005, in Manchester, NH. The Northeast Regional Community and Urban IPM Conference will be held March 15-16, 2005 in Manchester, NH. The Advisory Council will meet March 17, 2005, in Manchester, NH

In addition to the agency updates, CDMS, SYSCO and the Propane Education and Research Council provided information and gave presentations on ways they would like to work with the Centers to increase their IPM efforts. Look for more information about these future collaborations in future editions of the newsletter.

The next Directors' meeting will be June 8-9, 2005 in Washington, DC.