United States Department of Agriculture
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Plant Sciences Update

An online document for CSREES land-grant and government partners in plant science November 2003

In this issue:

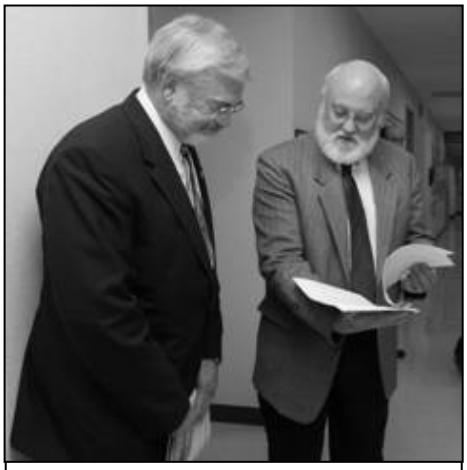
NPDN Holds Industry Workshop. On July 28 and 29, CSREES PAS and the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) hosted a workshop with representatives from the private sector and the agricultural industry to prepare for agricultural homeland security. The purpose of the workshop was to begin building an effective and coordinated national system involving the public and private sector for response to plant pests (including pathogens, insects, nematodes and weeds) that can threaten homeland security. The desired outcomes of the workshop were:

- Shared understanding of what the public sector, through the NPDN, and the private sector are doing now and are planning to do to respond to plant pests that threaten homeland security.
- Identification of potential ways to develop a coordinated and mutually beneficial activity as it relates to plant pests and homeland security involving the private and public sector.
- Identification of ways the NPDN and private sector can coordinate on specific program elements including: Detection, Reporting, Diagnosis, Communication, and Education.
- Strategies for the best ways to build a sustainable relationship between the public and private sector relative to the objective.
- Specific next steps to achieve the overall objective

The meeting was attended by 39 people from across the country and included the NPDN steering committee members as well as industry representatives. More information about the NPDN can be found at: http://npdn.ppath.cornell.edu/.

Special Feature

Moseley Visits Great Plains Diagnostic Network at K-State - Part of CSREES Funded National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN)



Bob Zeigler (right), Department Head for Plant Pathology at Kansas State University, discusses plans for the National Plant Diagnostic Network with James Moseley, Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Moseley was in Manhattan Friday, Oct. 17 for a first-hand look at the plant diagnostics system. (Photo courtesy of K-State Research and Extension)

MANHATTAN, Kan. – U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary James Moseley showed up at Kansas State University's Throckmorton Hall on October Oct. 17 to get a first-hand look at what CSREES national homeland security dollars are buying.

What he saw looks much like any other university lab – except for an array of electronics that ranges from a Web-connected digital microscope to banks of real-time monitors showing labs across the nation. It's part of a new National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN), developed by K-State Research and Extension systems engineers from their foundation work of connecting every Kansas county Extension office to the diagnostic labs on campus.

Moseley said protection of the nation's food supply must always be a priority because of its long-term, as well as its immediate impacts.

"With plants – while a problem may not spread rapidly – the concern is the ability to get your arms around it. Once it gets established, the long-term impact can be devastating," said Moseley, who is the No. 2 official at USDA behind Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman.

In four "fire drill" tests, the network has allowed scientists to go from the staged introduction of a new pest or pathogen in a crop to its confirmed identification in Washington, D.C., in less than 48 hours.

"Agricultural bioterrorism is unlikely to be immediately obvious. The county Extension agents out in the field may be the first to spot something and decide, 'This looks funny.' The challenge is the time between 'this looks funny' and the initiation of a response. The network is designed to shorten that gap," said Bob Zeigler, K-State plant pathologist and director of the Great Plains Diagnostic Network.

Other regional hubs in the national response system are at the University of California-Davis, Michigan State University, Cornell University and the University of Florida. They're connected to USDA's labs, as well as to every U.S. county Extension office, including those in far-flung Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico. The system also is reaching out to include trained "first detectors" in agribusiness, crop consulting and the like.

"It's an unprecedented network," Moseley said.

"Agriculture is the soft underbelly of our economy. Surveillance and detection has to be distributed as well as our agriculture is," Zeigler said. "For most exotic pests, there are few diagnostic experts. [We needed] to bring the experts together – to dramatically improve the diagnostic capacity of the country. The system must run smoothly, efficiently and quickly."

This article was excerpted from a Kansas State University Press Release

CSREES Program Activity

Hefferan Announces Changes for NRI Program. In a statement published in the August 15, 2003 CSREES Update, Administrator Colien Hefferan announced changes to the National Research Initiative (NRI) program. These changes include broadening the program to incorporate integrated research, education, and extension activities as well as procedural changes for FY 2004. The complete text of the announcement is below:

CSREES will be publishing the Program Description and Request for Applications (RFA) for the National Research Initiative (NRI) slightly later this year than we have in recent years. Last year the Administration sought and Congress supported a substantial increase in funding for the program. In addition, Congress provided increased flexibility in the types of awards that can be made through the NRI, allowing as much as 20 percent of the total available funding to be used in support of integrated research, education, and extension programs as authorized in Section 401 of the 1998 Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension Reform Act. These increases in the size and scope of the program have allowed us to continue to support not only fundamental and applied research in agriculture, but also to link that work to education and extension activities where such integration is effective in achieving the important goals in agriculture.

In fiscal year 2003 we published two separate RFAs to reflect the research and integrated program areas. For fiscal year 2004, we will publish one consolidated RFA which will cover most of the program (There may be several additional RFAs for joint programs with other agencies or special initiatives later in the year.). The consolidated RFA will convey the broader scope of the program, identify opportunities for a wider range of proposals than sought in any single RFA in the past, and balance both the continuity and responsiveness we are seeking to achieve in the new National Research Initiative.

-- Colien Hefferan

Regional IPM Program Requests Applications: CSREES is requesting applications for the Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program for fiscal year (FY) 2004. The Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program supports projects that develop individual pest control tactics, integrate individual tactics into an IPM system, and develop and implement extension education programs. The program is administered by the land-grant university system's four regions (North Central, Southern, Northeastern, Western) in partnership with CSREES. The specific needs of each region vary, and thus specific program priorities vary among the four regions. The submission deadlines for each respective region are as follows:

North Central – Funding Opportunity Closed;

Southern - Letter of Intent: August 15, 2003 Application: October 29, 2003;

Northeast - Letter of Intent: November 3, 2003 Application: December 1, 2003;

Western Region - Research Applications: December 2, 2003

Extension Applications and Joint Research-Extension Applications: December 16, 2003

For more information, please consult the Request for Applications documents at:
http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/rfa_region_ipm_04.htm

CABI Compendia Will Be Available to Land Grant University Faculty/Staff. An agreement between USDA/CSREES and CABI Publishing will provide access to CABI Publishing's Compendia series in the near future. Land Grant faculty and staff will be able to access the three Compendia in the series through 2000 access points. The three Compendia cover animal health, crop protection, and forestry. The compendia are interactive encyclopedic knowledge bases of peer reviewed information that has been developed by an international consortium including five agencies of the USDA (APHIS, ARS, CSREES, FAS and FS). The Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers will lead the distribution efforts, in cooperation with the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and the National Plant Diagnostic Network, early in 2004. For more information contact Bill Hoffman at whoffman@csrees.usda.gov.

Conference on Invasive Plants in the Natural and Managed Systems. Linking science and management as well as the 7th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions are the themes for the Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Ecosystems Conference to be held November 3-8, 2003 at the Wyndham Bonaventure Resort, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The goals of the conference are to promote scientific exchange among invasive plant researchers; to provide interchange (technology and needs transfer) between scientists, managers, and volunteers for efficient invasive plant management; and to foster interdisciplinary cooperation on the science and management of invasive plants.

Organizers expect participation from ecologists; weed scientists; private and public land managers; agricultural scientists; botanists; weed management specialists; horticulturalists; extension personnel; agriculture and natural resources educators; nursery professionals; biological control investigators and practitioners; transportation and utility representatives; others interested in invasive plant issues. More information can be obtained from the conference website: http://esa.org/ipinams-emapi7/.

UC Invasive Species Center Holds Workshop. On October 8 and 9, the University of California's Center for Invasive Species held its second annual Workshop. At the workshop, scientists who have received funding through the Center presented updates on the progress of their research. The Center is producing a second color brochure that summarizes the projects to date. More information is available at the Exotic Pests and Diseases website at http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/fundedprojects.

National IPM News Digest Published by Oregon State IPM Program. After attending the National IPM Committee Meeting on September 30 through October 2, Oregon IPM Coordinator Paul Jepson has compiled a National News Digest of IPM Issues. The Digest contains some of the news items contained in this publication in addition to others discussed at the national meeting. This digest is available at: http://oregonipm.ippc.orst.edu. Also available at this site is Oregon's excellent state IPM newsletter.

IPM Publication Receives Award from ASAE. Integrated Pest Management for Northeast Schools, a regional publication led by Craig Hollingsworth of the University of Massachusetts and published by the Natural Resource, Agriculture and Engineering Service (NRAES), has been selected by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) as a blue-ribbon winner in its

2003 Educational Aids Competition. The publication is available through the following website: http://www.nraes.org/publications/nraes152.html.

The New and Improved CSREES Pest Managers E-Mail Distribution List. This list is now up and running. It shares information about CSREES' pest management programs, including requests for applications and newsletters.

The list has been expanded to include a broader cross-section of those involved with IPM research and extension programs. The pest manager's list now includes those involved with the Pesticide Safety and Education Program (PSEP), Pest Management Centers, IPM, and the Minor Crop Pest Management Program (IR-4). In addition, applicants and others associated with CSREES' plant and animal systems competitive grants programs and other interested parties have been added.

If there are others who are interested in being added to the distribution list, please contact us with their names and e-mail addresses so that we may add them. If you have an e-mail address change, please contact Kathy Kimble-Day at kday@csrees.usda.gov.

Pest Management Centers Break the 500 Crop Profile Mark. Pest Management Centers recently made the 500th crop profile available on a cooperatively constructed and managed web site (http://www.pmcenters.org). The Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) instructs USDA and EPA to obtain pesticide use and usage data on major and minor crops. The concept of "Crop Profiles" was introduced more than 3 years ago to satisfy this mandate. Crop profiles include typical (not just what appears on the label or in recommendations) pesticide use information, as well as the use of pesticide alternatives. Land-grant university based pest management centers coordinate this effort and are funded by Regional Pest Management Centers. The Regional Pest Management Centers Program is administered by CSREES with the cooperation of the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy and the EPA.

Published Chemical Use Data Available on New Web site. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announced the availability of published chemical use statistics through a new Web site developed by North Carolina State University's Center for Integrated Pest Management. Data users can now 1) search agricultural chemical usage data based on crop, year, region, or active ingredient; 2) extract various chemical usage statistics from previously published data; and 3) create U.S. maps or descriptive charts based on these data. Data are currently available for crop years 1990 to 2001. NASS began collecting chemical usage statistics in 1990 in response to food safety and water quality concerns raised by U.S. consumers and Congressional initiatives passed to address these concerns. Crops and states surveyed each year change based on evolving program needs and budgeted resources. Information on the chemical use program, by year, is available on the website. These data can be accessed either by going to the NASS home page at http://www.usda.gov/nass and clicking on the "Ag Chem Database" icon or by going directly to the USDA Regional Pest Management Center's National Database Web site at http://www.pestmanagement.info/nass.

CSREES Partners, & USDA produce 'Butterflies and Bt Corn: Allowing Science to Guide Decisions,' as both an attractive web site and as a hard-copy publication explaining how a mushrooming controversy over colliding interests was resolved. The scientific and public furor

was generated by a small, lab-based study in 1999 indicating that caterpillars suffered when forced to feed on Asclepias spp. (milkweed) leaves heavily dusted with Bt-corn pollen, thereby triggering concerns about Bt crops. Attendees at a subsequent workshop on the topic conclusively agreed that credible, science-based facts were needed before any decisions could be made. An international group of some 30 researchers published five papers which presented factual evidence that under actual field conditions the likelihood of monarch caterpillars being exposed to damaging levels of Bt-corn pollen was low. The web site is http://www.ars.usda.gov/sites/monarch/. A limited number of copies of the publication are available from R.L. Hellmich, USDA-ARS Corn Insect and Crop Genetic Research Unit, 110 Genetics Lab, c/o In-sectary, Ames, IA 50011 (e-mail RHellmich@iastate.edu).

IR-4 Food Use Workshop Sets Priorities for 2004. Portland, OR was the site of the annual IR-4 Food Use Workshop (FUW). The three-day workshop, which began on September 16, is the place where IR-4 study priorities are determined. Crop growers, industry representatives and university/ARS researchers spend each of the days in eight-hour long discussions to establish a total of 45 "A" priorities. Fifteen priorities are set aside for each of the three disciplines (weed management, insect management and disease management) for IR-4 research. These priorities become the projects that will be the focus of IR-4 research in the next year. The IR-4 Project is a national agricultural program that provides research to establish safe and effective pest control agents for minor crop uses. Its mission is to provide pest management solutions to growers of fruits, vegetables and other specialty crops. People who benefit from IR-4 are minor crops growers, food processors and consumers.

IR-4 Program Praised by Review Team. CSREES and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS)- USDA recently concluded an external review of the Interregional Research Project Number Four (IR-4) program. The seven member review team was comprised of industry, academic, and government leaders and was chaired by former CSREES administrator, Charles Laughlin. The results of the review were overwhelmingly positive. One of the program's major productivity indicators is the number of pesticide tolerance IR-4 supports for registration. During the past 2 years, slightly more than 50% of all pesticides registered by EPA resulted from IR-4 submissions. Suggestions made by the review team predominantly focused on opportunities for continued improvement.

Langston University & Citizen Potowatomi Tribe Host CSREES Ag Diversity Tour. The 2003 CSREES Ag Producer Diversity Tour, hosted by Langston University and the Citizen Potowatomi Tribe, was held in Oklahoma July 14-18. The purpose of the tour was to understand and broaden the CSREES commitment to small-scale minority farmers by meeting operators in their own environment: On the farm. The desired outcome was to enhance the agency's over-all ability to serve these stakeholders. End of tour meetings with the participants and our Langston University hosts indicated that these desired outcomes were met and surpassed.

Last year's tour, hosted by Alcorn State University, Southern University, and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, was also a great success. The tour convinced the participants that the small minority farms visited are valuable to our country in both tangible and intangible ways. For example, small-scale, minority–operated farms preserve an improved quality of life for rural minority youth, help maintain local food systems, and preserve rural open green space.

Both tours were organized by the agency's plant and animal systems unit.

Inside the Beltway

House Action on FY 2004 CSREES Budget. On Tuesday, June 17, 2003, the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee marked up the FY 2004 agriculture appropriations bill. Preliminary information indicates that the House Subcommittee mark for CSREES is $1,108,426,000. This is an increase of $93,554,000 above the FY 2004 President's budget level and $17,621,000 below the FY 03 appropriation with rescission. (The FY 2004 President's budget and FY 03 appropriation totals include estimates for the interest earned on the Native American Endowment Fund.) Please note that the table does not include information on the Native American Endowment Fund or Section 2501, Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program. However, based on preliminary FY 2004 information, the House subcommittee proposes $9,000,000 for the Native American Endowment Fund and $3,470,000 for Section 2501.

FY 2004 Budget Request for Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services House Mark Compared with the FY 2003 enacted level and the President's FY 2004 request Special Research Grants (continued on following page)

Extension Activities	FY 2003 enacted*	FY 2004 request	FY 2004 House
Smith Lever (3)b and (3)c	279.390	275.940	275.940
1890 Institutions	31.908	32.117	31.908
Smith Lever section 3(d):			
Farm Safety	5.489		5.489
Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP)	58.185	60.909	58.185
Indian Reservation Agents	1.983	1.996	1.983
Pest Management	10.689	10.759	10.689
Rural Development Center			
Sustainable Agriculture	4.843	3.792	4.843
Youth at Risk	8.426	8.481	8.426
Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification	0.496	0.499	0.496
Renewable Resources Extension Act	4.516	4.093	4.093
1890 Facilities (Sec. 1447)	14.903	13.500	13.500
Rural Health and Safety Education	2.605		0.000
Extension services 1994 institutions	3.365	3.273	3.273
Grants to Youth Orgs (from Smith Lever)	2.981		0.000
Federal Administration and Special Grants (total)	20.741	6.909	19.417
Total	**450.520**	**422.268**	**438.242**

Integrated Activities	FY 2003 Enacted*	FY 2004 request	FY 2004 House
Critical Issues -- Plant and Animal Diseases	0.497	2.500	0.497
Rural Development Centers	1.503	1.513	1.503
Water Quality	12.887	12.971	12.887
Food Safety	14.870	14.967	14.870
Pesticide Impact Assessment	4.502	4.531	4.501
International Science and Education Grants	0.497	1.000	1.000
Crops at Risk from FQPA	1.487	1.497	1.487
FQPA Risk Mitigation Program for Major Food Crops	4.857	4.889	4.857
Methyl Bromide Transition Program	3.229	2.498	3.229
Organic Transition Program	2.111	0.499	2.111
Homeland Security Program		16.000	16.000
Total	**46.439**	**62.865**	**62.942**

*Includes 0.65% across the board reduction

FY 2004 Budget Request for Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services House Mark Compared with the FY 2003 enacted level and the President's FY 2004 request Special Research Grants (continued from following page)

Research and Education Activities	FY 2003 Enacted*	FY 2004 Presidential Request	FY 2004 House Mark-Up
Payments under Hatch Act	178.977	180.148	180.148
Cooperative Forestry (McIntire-Stennis)	21.742	21.884	21.884
Evans-Allen Program	35.411	36.000	36.000
Special Research Grants	111.534	3.341	101.241
Improved pest control:			
Emerging pest			
Expert IPM	0.176	0.177	0.177
Integrated Pest Management	2.707	2.725	2.725
IR-4 Minor Crop Pest Management	10.673	10.485	10.673
Pest Management Alternatives	1.608	1.619	1.619
Improved Pest Control (total)	15.165	15.006	15.194
National Research Initiative	166.045	200.000	149.248
Animal Health and Disease	5.065	5.098	5.065
Alternative Crops			
Canola	0.841		0.840
Hesperaloe and other desert plants	0.348		0.348
Critical Agricultural Materials Act	1.242		0.000
1994 Institutions	1.093	0.998	0.998
Joe Skeen Rangeland	0.994		1.000
Institution Challenge Grants	4.888	5.500	4.888
Graduate Fellowships	3.222	4.500	3.222
Multicultural Scholars	0.992	0.998	0.992
Hispanic Education Partnership	4.073	3.492	4.073
1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants	11.404	9.479	9.479
Payments to the 1994 Institutions	1.689	2.250	1.689
Alaska/Hawaiian Serving Institutions	3.477	2.997	2.997
Secondary Agriculture Education	0.994	1.000	0.994
Sustainable Agriculture SARE	13.661	9.230	13.661
Aquaculture Centers (Sec.1475)	4.471	3.996	3.996
Federal Administration (Total)	29.466	8.311	36.815
Total	**616.792**	**514.228**	**594.772**

*Includes 0.65% across the board reduction

CARAT Advisory Group Presents Recommendations. An advisory work group, led by the Meridian Institute, finalized a series of recommendations on safer and more efficient pest management techniques, including calls for better coordination of such efforts within the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture on October 1, 2003. The group drafted the recommendations for the Committee to Advise on Reassessment and Transition (CARAT), a panel that advises EPA and USDA on pest management planning and tolerance reassessments for pesticides. John Ehrmann, senior partner with the Meridian Institute and the group's facilitator, said the final version would be presented to the CARAT panel at the conclusion of the two-day meeting on Oct. 2.

CARAT was established in 2000 to help the agencies, the agricultural industry, and others through a transition toward tougher pesticide safety requirements under the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. Under the act, EPA was required to reassess the risk of all registered pesticides under far more stringent standards.

The CARAT work group recommended a larger role for Pest Management Strategic Plans--which identify alternative approaches to currently used pesticides for specific crops--and better coordination with groups such as USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the CSREES funded Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers. Those centers received particularly high marks from the work group for developing high quality research and in reaching out to local and state agricultural, environmental, and academic groups.

The integrated pest management approach, designed to control pests while minimizing health and environmental risks, also deserves a more stable funding source through USDA, the work group said.

The work group also called on the USDA to thoroughly review whether its various programs, which range from research and education to the funding of locally run cooperative extension programs, are working in tandem to promote more efficient and safer pest management practices. The group also urged EPA to better coordinate its own pesticide programs with other agency programs addressing water quality, air quality, and worker safety.

Many of the work group members voiced concern over whether there will continue to be adequate funding for many of the programs they are lauding through the recommendations since many states are battling budget deficits. While the USDA helps fund the local cooperative extension services, for example, some counties and universities are considering layoffs and even closing some offices due to budget deficits.

"Some of these counties have already moved to de-fund those extension agents," a move that would eliminate some of the very officials who could be pushing safer and more economical pest management techniques directly to growers, according to Dan Botts, a representative from the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association.

For example, the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources in August said it was eliminating jobs to make up for a 25 percent cut to the university's Cooperative Extension program in addition to a 10 percent cut to its Agricultural Experiment Station.

Some CARAT work group members however expressed optimism over a number of new grants that because available under the 2002 Farm Bill, such as Conservation Innovation Grants. That program provides up to 50 percent in matching funds toward university and other programs that develop and implement conservation efforts, including those that incorporate innovative pest management techniques.

CSREES Recommends Steps to Prepare for Grants.gov. CSREES would like inform applicants of some steps they can take to now to be prepared for our limited implementation of Grants.gov (http://grants.gov). As previously announced, CSREES will begin implementing Grants.gov in February 2004 with full implementation planned for Fiscal Year 2005.

Detailed information about CSREES' Grants.gov plans, including important announcements, program implementation, and other requirements, are posted on CSREES' web site at http://www.reeusda.gov/egov/csrees/egrants.htm. It is suggested that University Grants Offices visit the site periodically for important updates, especially during the early implementation. Organizations should verify that they have a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number or take the steps needed to obtain one as soon as possible if their organization will be applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1–866–705–5711 or going to http://www.dnb.com/us/.
Applicant organizations must also register with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) before they can submit a grant application through Grants.gov. The organization will need the DUNS number to complete this step. The CCR registration process can begin by calling the CCR Assistance Center at 1-888-227-2423 or online at http://www.ccr.gov. To make the process easier, CSREES suggests that the responsible party download CCR's Registration Worksheet and complete it prior to registering.

CSREES recommends that these steps begin as soon as possible, because they can take up to several weeks. For more information contact JASON HITCHCOCK at 202-720-4343 or jhitchcock@csrees.usda.gov.

Few Appropriations Bills Passed By Start of FY 04. Only 3 of the 13 appropriations bills have been signed into law as of October 21. These are the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security and the Legislative Branch appropriations. As a result, Congress has approved a continuing resolution (H.J.RES.69). This one-month continuing resolution will allow the government to continue operating at FY 2003 rates through October 31.

Invasive Species Plan, Website Available. The National Invasive Species Council's Management Plan is available at http://www.invasivespecies.gov. This plan is a product of 10 cabinet-level council members who were directed to provide leadership on this issue by a February 1999 Executive Order. The plan outlines prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, and management strategies to prevent the adverse effects of invasive species. The web site also gives up-to-date information on a variety of invasive species issues.

H.R.1904 (Healthy Forest Restoration Act) on Senate Calendar. See all of the latest action on this Bill at http://thomas.loc.gov/.

Title: To improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to plan and conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape, and for other purposes.

Title IV of the Act deals with Insect infestations and related diseases.

(Sec. 403) Directs the Secretary concerned to establish an accelerated program to plan, conduct, and promote comprehensive and systematic information gathering on forest-damaging insects and associated diseases.

(Sec. 404) Allows the Secretary concerned to conduct applied silvicultural assessments on Federal lands that are infested with forest-damaging insects or that are at risk of such infestation.

(Sec. 405) States that the authority provided to each Secretary in this title is supplemental to, and not in lieu of, any authority provided to the Secretaries in any other law.

(Sec. 406) Authorizes appropriations for FY 2004 to 2008.

Sponsor: Rep Scott McInnis [R-CO-3] (introduced 5/1/2003). Cosponsors: 137
Related Bills: H.RES.239
Latest Major Action: 7/31/2003 Senate preparation for floor. Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 246. b.

Agency Personnel Update

Dennis Kopp Concludes LEGIS Fellowship, Returned August 25. Dennis Kopp recently concluded a Brookings Institute LEGIS fellowship, a 6-month Congressional staff experience, which began January 6, 2003. Dennis' first day back in the office was August 25.

Ann Marie Thro to Undertake Embassy Appointment. CSREES National Program Leader Ann Marie Thro will carry out a temporary appointment at the United States Embassy in Vienna, Austria as an Embassy Science Fellow during the month of November. Her scientific expertise will assist the embassy in their response to proposed Austrian biotechnology legislation. Austria is arguably the European epicenter of grass roots opposition to the use of modern biotechnology in agriculture. Eastern European states that anticipate joining the EU are looking at Austria's example and could alter the balance of opinion in Europe if they adopt the same position.

Begun 2 years ago as a State Department and National Science Foundation (NSF) partnership, the Embassy Science Fellows Program places U.S. Government scientists and technical experts at U.S. embassies for limited periods to provide

requested scientific expertise, advice, and technical or project assistance to host countries on science and technology-related issues.

Dr. Thro is the fourth CSREES employee to undertake such an assignment during the past 2 years. Kitty Cardwell was posted in San Jose, Costa Rica, throughout August, 2002 to cooperate on biotechnology issues with the Costa Rican National Technical Commission on Biosafety, consult with the Costa Rican National Biodiversity Institute, and assist the Center for Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Costa Rica. Richard Hegg was assigned to Athens, Greece from mid-September to mid-October of 2002 to work with water resources and environmental issues related to agriculture. Phil Schwab recently worked with representatives of various government ministries in Viet Nam providing expertise in biotechnology in an effort to draft a biotechnology regulatory policy for the country.

Kitty Cardwell Receives APS International Service Award and CGIAR Science Award. CSREES National Program Leader for Plant Pathology, Kitty Cardwell, recently received two national awards from prominent professional societies.

The American Phytopathological Society (APS) recently awarded their International Service Award to Dr. Cardwell. The International Service Award recognizes outstanding contributions to plant pathology by APS members for a country other than their own. Kitty was honored for her recent outreach work in Africa with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. The award carried with it a cash prize, which Dr. Cardwell donated to Rotary International and their African outreach efforts.

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research recently awarded Dr. Cardwell their annual award for an Outstanding Scientific Article. The title of the article that appeared in the July 6, 2002 edition of the British Medical Journal (v. 325) is: Dietary aflatoxin exposure and impaired growth in young children from Benin and Togo: cross sectional study. The publication was co-authored by Y.Y. Gong, A. Hounsa, S. Egal, P.C. Turner, and C.P. Wild.

Nowierski and Bewick Active In Federal Invasive Species Effort. National Program Leaders with CSREES have been actively engaged in the national initiative on invasive species. Dr. Tom Bewick, National Program Leader for Horticulture, is co-chairing the Early Detection & Rapid Response Working Group for the National Invasive Species Management Plan, while Dr. Robert Nowierski, National Program Leader for Bio-Based Pest Management, is co-chairing the Control and Management Working Group. These two working groups and others will help the National Invasive Species Council implement the National Invasive Species Management Plan.

Plant Sciences Staff Appointments Over the Past 12 Months:

LeCouteur joins team as Office Automation Assistant. The Plant Section of the Plant and Animal Systems Unit welcomes our new Office Automation Assistant: Joan LeCouteur (also known as Joannie). She comes to us with an impressive Federal background that dates back to 1985 and includes experience with the Department of the Army, the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, Acadia National Park, and the Veteran's Administration. Joan has also tried her hand as an independent retail businesswoman. In addition to work, she enjoys travel, writing, bike riding, and making crafts. Joan LeCouteur can be reached via e-mail at jlecouteur@csrees.usda.gov and telephoned at 202-401-1794.

Green is New Horticulture Program Leader. James (Jim) Green joins the Plant and Animal Systems unit as a National Program Leader for Horticulture. Green comes to CSREES from Oregon State University where he served for 28 years as professor of horticulture with emphasis on teaching, research, and extension related to nursery and greenhouse crops. He has a Ph.D. degree in agronomy/concentration crop physiology and a M.S. degree in horticulture/concentration crop physiology from Colorado State University. His efforts will be directed toward establishing national priorities for research, education, and extension in horticulture. Green can be reached at jgreen@csrees.usda.gov, telephone 202-401-6134.

Welcome Tam-Thao Nguyen! The Plant Section of CSREES' Plant and Animal Systems Unit welcomes Tam-Thao Nguyen as a new program assistant. Tam comes to CSREES from Computer Science Corporation where she was an associate in the technical staff. She has a BS degree in computer information systems from Marymount University. Tam can be reached at tnguyen@csrees.usda.gov or 202-401-4603.

Ortman appointment changes to "Shared Faculty." In September 2001, Dr. Eldon Ortman joined CSREES on a temporary full time appointment based in Washington, DC. During Fiscal Year 2004, he will be serving in a 25% shared faculty role based in Indiana. Access will be via e-mail (eortman@csrees.usda.gov) and voice mail (202-401-5804).

Dr. Ortman will continue providing guidance to enhance programmatic and administrative operations. He will be working with staff in the agency on tasks that include:

- Development of guidelines and management/administrative processes and procedures,
- Implementation of the IPM Roadmap, and
- Revision of IPM Requests for Proposals (RFA).

Dr. Ortman has been a strong advocate for regional and multi-state activities. Previously, he served as Associate Director of Agricultural Research Programs at Purdue University and in numerous leadership roles in the Entomological Society of America.

Plant Science Staff Directory. For more information about our programs consult our Web site or the appropriate individual listed below:

Name	Discipline/Program/Issues	Telephone (202)	E-mail*
Bewick, Tom	Horticulture; invasive species, organic agriculture, urban agriculture	401-3356	tbewick
Bolton, Herb	Entomology; invasive species	401-4201	hbolton
Cardwell, Kitty	Plant pathology, methyl bromide alternatives	401-1790	kcardwell
Fitzner, Mike	Plant breeding; extension IPM; IPM centers	401-4939	mfitzner
Green, James	Horticulture, crop physiology	401-6134	jgreen
Hoffman, Bill	Program specialist	401-1112	whoffman
Jerkins, Diana	Managed ecosystems	401-6996	djerkins
Jones, Dan	Biochemistry & molecular biology; biotech.	401-6854	ddjones
Jones, Preston	Agronomy; precision agriculture	401-1990	jpjones
Johnson, Monte	Entomology; toxicology; PSEP; PMAP	401-1108	mpjohnson
Kaleikau, Ed	Plant Genomics	401-1931	ekaleikau
Kimble-Day, Kathy	Program specialist	401-4420	kday
Kopp, Dennis	Entomology, pest management centers	401-6437	dkopp
Lichens-Park, Ann	Biol. of plant microbe assn., microbial gene sequencing	401-6466	apark
Lin, Liang-Shiou	Plant genetic mechanisms, plant growth & development	401-5042	Llin
McLean, Gail	Plant responses to the environment, plant biochemistry, bioinformatics	401-6060	gmclean
Meyer, Rick	Entomology; CAR; PMIDSS; critical issues	401-4891	hmeyer
Nowierski, Bob	Bio-based IPM; applied ecology; RAMP, invasive species	401-4900	rnowierski
Ortman, Eldon	Pest management centers, IPM	401-5804	eortman
Poth, Mark	National Research Initiative	401-5244	
Parochetti, Jim	Weed science; IR-4	401-4354	jparochetti
Purcell-Miramontes, Mary	Entomology, nematology, bio-based IPM	401-5114	mpurcell
Sheely, Deb	Competitive integrated programs	401-1624	dsheely
Thro, Ann Marie	Plant breeding; plant genetics; genomics	401-6702	athro

* E-mail addresses are listed end "@csrees.usda.gov" (example: whoffman@csrees.usda.gov).

U.S. Postal Service Mail:
USDA/CSREES/PAS
Mail Stop 2220
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-2220

Express Mail (private carrier):
USDA/CSREES/PAS
800 9th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Sending Mail to CSREES. Whenever possible, please send mail to CSREES through the private carrier of your choice instead of the US Postal Service.

CSREES Plant Science Web Sites:
Plant & Animal Systems Unit: http://www.reeusda.gov/pas
Pest Management Program Index: http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/programs/pest.htm