



Plant Sciences Update

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

February/March 2004

In this issue:

Lead Story:	CSREES Releases Integrated Pest Management RFAs
Special Features:	Moseley Visits Great Plains Diagnostic Network at K-State - Part of NPDN, NCSU Plant Breeders Pursue Aggressive Blueberry Program, CSREES Partner Turns Emergency Exemptions into Long Lasting Solutions
CSREES Program Activity:	NRI to Include Conference Opportunity For Plant Breeders, Hefferan Announces Changes for NRI Program, CABI Compendium Coming Soon, Extension Leadership Changes Announced in New Mexico, Pennsylvania, & Virginia, Nat'l IPM News Digest Published by Oregon State, IPM Publication Honored by ASAE, New and Improved CSREES Pest Managers E-Mail Distribution List, VA Tech Biotech Info Service Earns Accolades from NGO, Landscape/Lawn Care Industry & Environmentalists To Come Together in San Antonio, Funding Opportunities Workshop in the West, Upcoming Plant Science Related Academic Society Meetings
Inside the Beltway:	President Proposes FY 2005 Budget, CSREES Recommends Steps to Prepare for Grants.gov, CARAT Advisory Group Presents Recommendations
Agency Personnel Update:	Hegg & Rozum receive EPA award, Recent Staff Appointments, Plant Sciences Staff Directory, Sending Mail to CSREES, CSREES Plant Science Web Sites

CSREES Releases Integrated Pest Management RFAs. On December 29th, CSREES announced the release of two Requests for Applications (RFAs) for the following programs: (1) the Pest Management Alternatives Special Research Grants (PMAP) and (2) the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) portion of the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program. The RFA documents for both of these programs are available at: <http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/ourfund.htm>).

(1) The **Pest Management Alternatives Program (PMAP)** – Supports development and implementation of IPM systems when regulatory action or voluntary cancellation has resulted in the present unavailability of essential pest control tactics.

(2) The IPM portion of the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension (IREE) grant program contains three separate program areas. These include:

Crops at Risk (CAR) – Supports research, education, and extension programs directed toward multiple tactic IPM systems for crops likely to lose certain pesticides in the near future due to regulatory action or voluntary cancellation.

Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program (RAMP) – Supports long-term development of IPM strategies that eliminate or minimize certain pesticide food residues (particularly residues of concern on foods most consumed by children).

Methyl Bromide Transitions Program (MBT) – Supports discovery and implementation of IPM alternatives for commodities affected by the phase-out of methyl bromide.

While the Organic Transitions Program has historically been included in the integrated RFA with CAR, RAMP, and MBT, this year it will be published later. PMAP applications must be received by 2/20/04 and IPM-IREE applications must be received by 3/15/04.

Special Features

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. – USDA 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, DC, 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

NCSU Plant Breeders Pursue Aggressive



Blueberry Program

Blueberry researchers at CSREES partner North Carolina State University (NCSU) are far from singing the blues.

In fact, NCSU-based researchers, working through the Horticultural Crops Research Station at Castle Hayne, have released 20 blueberry varieties in the past 15 years.

"Our research tends to concentrate on developing cultivars adapted to mechanical harvesting," says Dr. Jim Ballington, horticulturist and plant breeder in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. As the campus-based leader of Castle Hayne's blueberry breeding research efforts, he works with on-site co-leader and horticulture research associate Susan Rooks. He also works cooperatively with Bill Cline, an on-site researcher and Extension specialist in the college's plant pathology department.

Ballington's team most recently released three North Carolina-oriented cultivars — "Craven," "Pamlico," and "Lenoir" — all adapted to machine harvesting.

Ballington says the three help extend and fill in gaps in the ripening season by providing a series of cultivars adapted to mechanical harvesting.

This article originally appeared in the NCSU Online Magazine "Perspectives" (Summer 2003). It has been edited for length and content.

CSREES Partner Turns Emergency Exemptions into Long Lasting Solutions.

IR-4, a national partnership of researchers, producers, the crop protection industry, and Federal agencies that includes CSREES, has contributed to the conversion of section 18 emergency exemptions to permanent product registrations. Section 18 emergency exemptions are used when a particular pest has been discovered in a localized area and there is a known crop protection solution, but the solution has not been registered for that crop.

In many cases, section 18 exemptions have contributed to the reduction of economic losses in the millions of dollars for a particular state or location. This is one area where a government program such as IR-4 proves a significant return on investment. When a section 18 emergency turns into a permanent registration, the economic savings can prove to be even higher. IR-4 strives to conduct Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) research where the goal is to turn a section 18 into a permanent registration. In FY 03, the EPA estimates that IR-4 research contributed to 95 or 79% of the total section 18 conversions, which is an increase from 56 in FY 02. EPA Minor Use Officer, Hoyt Jamerson, announced this accomplishment in a memo to his IR-4 partners at the end of EPA fiscal year 2003. In his memo he stated, "IR-4's work has negated 95 of 120 section 18s. This is another measure of just how successful IR-4 was in FY 03."

CSREES National Program Leader Jim Parochetti stated, "These outcomes reflect the cooperation among several agencies and the academic community. IR-4 will continue to make the permanent registration of section 18 products a priority."

This article contains excerpts from an IR-4 news release and original material.

CSREES Program Activity

NRI to Include Conference Opportunity For Plant Breeders. The CSREES National Research Initiative (NRI) contains a community planning opportunity for plant breeders in FY 2004. A portion of the RFA that pertains to this opportunity is listed below:

To facilitate community planning for large-scale applied plant genomic projects and to bridge the gap between genome researchers and plant breeders -- potential applicants for a CAP award in subsequent years are encouraged to submit a research conference proposal this year focused on bringing together a community of plant breeders, genome scientists, 41 end-users, growers, and other experts to identify research needs, update information, and to advance translational genomics research in wheat, barley, soybean, cotton, loblolly pine, Compositae, Solanaceae, etc.. Up to \$12,000 can be requested for a research conference planning proposal and must be received by 5:00 P.M. eastern time, March 15, 2004.

The complete RFA is available at
http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/04/rfa_nri_04.htm.

Hefferan Announces Changes for NRI Program. In a statement published in the August 15, 2003 CSREES Update, Administrator Colien Hefferan announced changes to the 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

CABI Compendium 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.

Extension Leadership Changes Announced In New Mexico, Pennsylvania, & Virginia. Three land grant universities have recently announced major leadership changes in their Extension Service:

Paul Gutierrez has been named Associate Director, Cooperative Extension Service, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, effective December 1, 2003.

Daney Jackson has been appointed as Associate Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, effective February 1, 2003.

Judith H. Jones has been appointed as Interim Director and Associate Dean, Cooperative Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, effective October 31, 2003.

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.

Virginia Tech Biotech Information Service Earns Accolades From NGO. The Information Systems for Biotechnology (ISB) program at Virginia Tech, funded in part by a special grant from USDA, recently earned accolades from the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), a prominent non government organization. The ISB program maintains agricultural biotechnology databases for use by stakeholders and regulatory agencies. Jane Rissler of UCS wrote: "I am writing because of the excellent work Doug King at ISB did for us last month. I was so pleased with his cooperative spirit and helpful searches of the USDA field trial data base ... The well-maintained USDA database and Doug's helpfulness in using it are very important to the public's being able to keep abreast of field trials in the United States."

Landscape/Lawn Care Industry & Environmentalists Come Together In San Antonio In March. The first annual Lawns & the Environment Conference will be held March 14-17, 2004 in San Antonio. Industry representatives (such as Scotts, Toro, and the Professional Lawn Care Association), EPA, National Audubon Society, USDA County Extension Service, National Wildlife Federation, local government officials and other stakeholder organizations will be developing public education strategies. Attendees will be invited to review and comment on the "Environmental Guidelines for Responsible Lawn Care and Landscaping" that over the last year have been developed by this unique group. Participants will also visit a demonstration landscape exhibit put together by the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). This conference will involve speakers from the various stakeholder groups and proves to be an enjoyable and educational experience. The conference will be held at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio.

For more information contact the Center for Resource Management at 801-466-3600 or nnelsoncrm@msn.com or contact Jim Green at 202-401-6134 or jgreen@csrees.usda.gov.

Funding Opportunities Workshop in the West. The Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD) and the University of Nevada, Reno will host a western regional workshop on CSREES, USDA funding Opportunities, in support of Research, Extension, and Education. The workshop will be held on March 8, 2004 in Reno, Nevada. Go to <http://www.ag.unr.edu/csreesworkshop/> for registration and other information.

Upcoming Plant Science Related Academic Society Meetings

7-11 February * WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING, Kansas City, MO. Contact: WSSA Mtg. Manager, PO Box 7050, Lawrence, KS 66044-7050. Email: WSSA@allenpress.com. Fax: 1-785-843-1274. Phone: 1-785-843-1235. Web: <http://www.WSSA.net>.

20-22 February * SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FLORISTS ANNUAL PEST MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, San Jose, CA. Contact: N. Lawler, Soc. Of American Florists, 1601 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Email: NLawler@safnow.org. Fax: 1-703-836-8705. Phone: 1-703-836-8700. Web: <http://www.safnow.org/meetings/index.cfm>.

9-11 March * WESTERN (U.S.) SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE ANNUAL MEETING, Colorado Springs, CO. Contact: W. Graves, WSWS, PO Box 963, Newark, CA 94560-1843. Email: WGraves431@aol.com.

21-24 March * 16TH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL PLANT RESISTANCE TO INSECTSWORKSHOP/CONFERENCE, Baton Rouge, LA. Contact: M. Stout, Dept. of Entomology, 402 Life Sci., Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Email: MStout@agctr.lsu.edu. Fax: 1-225-388-1643. Web: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/ipri>.

21-24 June * 1ST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TOMATO DISEASES, Orlando, FL. Contact: T. Momol, Email: TMomol@ufl.edu. Phone: 1-850-875-7154. Web: <http://plantdoctor.ifas.ufl.edu/istd.html>.

11-14 July * AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING, Tampa, FL, USA. Contact: APMS, PO Box 821265, Vicksburg, MS 39182. Web: <http://www.apms.org>.

30 July-03 August * AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING, Anaheim, CA. Contact: APS, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, MN 55121-2097. Email: aps@scisoc.org. Fax: 1-612-454-0766. Web: <http://www.apsnet.org>.

7-11 August * ANNUAL MEETING, SOCIETY OF NEMATOLOGISTS, Estes Park, CO. Contact: SON, PO Box 311, Marceline, MO 64658. Email: SON@mcmsys.com. Fax/phone: 1-660-256-3252. Web: <http://www.nematologists.org/annualmeeting/>.

20-23 September * 11TH NORTH AMERICAN WEED MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW, Rapid City, ND. Contact: S. Guffy, Email: Scott@co.pennington.sd.us. Phone: 1-605-394-5320.

14-18 November * ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING, Salt Lake City, UT. Contact: ESA, 9301 Annapolis Rd., Lanham, MD 20706-3115. Fax: 1-301-731-4538. Email: meet@entsoc.org. Web: <http://www.entsoc.org>.

Inside the Beltway

President Bush Proposes FY 2005 Budget. On Monday, February 2, 2004, President George W. Bush forwarded the fiscal year (FY) 2005 budget to Congress. The FY 2005 budget for the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) includes discretionary funding totaling \$1,020,022,000. This represents a decrease of \$103,890,000 or approximately 9.24% below the FY 2004 Appropriations Act post-rescission amount of \$1,123,912,000. The FY 2005 Budget includes:

- \$30 million for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (Homeland Security Program);
- \$10.759 million for the Smith Lever 3(d) Extension IPM Implementation Program;
- \$10.485 million for the Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4) Program;
- \$4.531 million for the Regional Pest Management Centers;
- \$2.750 million for the IPM and Biological Control Program;
- \$1.619 million for the Pest Management Alternatives Program; and
- \$1.497 million for the Crops at Risk program.

The complete CSREES budget is listed on the following two pages.

CSREES Recommends Steps to Prepare for Grants.gov. CSREES would like to inform applicants of some steps they can take to now to be prepared for our limited implementation of 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' website 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.

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE
(\$000)

<u>Programs</u>	<u>FY 2004 President's Budget</u>	<u>FY 2004 Approp. Act</u>	<u>FY 2005 President's Budget</u>
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES			
Formula Programs:			
Hatch Act	\$180,148	\$179,085	\$180,148
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	21,884	21,755	21,884
Evans-Allen Program	36,000	35,788	36,000
Animal Health & Disease, Section 1433	<u>5,098</u>	<u>4,532</u>	<u>5,098</u>
Subtotal	243,130	241,160	243,130
Special Research Grants:			
Expert IPM Decision Support System	177	158	177
Global Change, UV-B Monitoring	2,500	2,000	2,500
Integrated Pest Management & Biological Control	2,725	2,439	2,725
Minor Crop Pest Management, IR-4	10,485	9,549	10,485
Minor Use Animal Drugs	588	526	588
National Biological Impact Assessment Program	253	225	253
Pest Management Alternatives	1,619	1,448	1,619
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>107,904</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	18,347	124,249	18,347
National Research Initiative Competitive Grants	200,000	164,027	180,000
Other Research:			
Critical Agricultural Materials	0	1,111	0
Aquaculture Centers	3,996	4,000	3,996
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program	9,230	12,222	9,230
Supplemental & Alternative Crops	0	1,063	0
Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Restoration	0	895	0
1994 Research Grants	998	1,087	998
Federal Administration (Direct Appropriation)	<u>8,311</u>	<u>37,482</u>	<u>7,538</u>
Subtotal	22,535	57,860	21,762
Higher Education:			
Graduate Fellowships Grants	4,500	2,883	4,500
Institution Challenge Grants	5,500	4,859	5,500
Institution Capacity Building Grants	9,479	11,411	11,411
Multicultural Scholars	998	986	998
Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program	3,492	4,645	4,645
Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program	2,250	1,679	2,250
Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund	9,000	8,947	12,000
Interest (Estimated) Earned on the Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund	2,508	1,930	2,508
Secondary/2-Year Post Secondary	1,000	890	1,000
Agrosecurity Education	0	0	5,000
Alaska Native-Serving & Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	<u>2,997</u>	<u>3,131</u>	<u>2,997</u>
Subtotal	<u>41,724</u>	<u>41,361</u>	<u>52,809</u>
Total, Research and Education Activities	525,736	628,657	516,048
OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR DISADVANTAGED FARMERS ACTIVITIES			
Section 2501 Legislative Authority:			
Outreach & Technical Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers Program	4,003	5,935	5,935

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE
(\$000)

<u>Programs</u>	<u>FY 2004 President's Budget</u>	<u>FY 2004 Approp. Act</u>	<u>FY 2005 President's Budget</u>
INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES			
Section 406 Legislative Authority:			
Water Quality	\$12,971	\$11,530	\$12,971
Food Safety	14,967	13,305	14,967
Regional Pest Management Centers	4,531	4,028	4,531
Crops at Risk from FQPA Implementation	1,497	1,330	1,497
FQPA Risk Mitigation Program for Major Food Crop Systems	4,889	4,345	4,889
Methyl Bromide Transition Program	2,498	3,131	2,498
Organic Transition Program	<u>499</u>	<u>1,889</u>	<u>499</u>
Subtotal	41,852	39,558	41,852
Other Legislative Authorities:			
International Science & Education Grants Program	1,000	895	1,000
Critical Issues	2,500	444	2,500
Regional Rural Development Centers	1,513	1,345	1,513
Food & Agriculture Defense Initiative (Homeland Security)	<u>16,000</u>	<u>7,953</u>	<u>30,000</u>
Subtotal	<u>21,013</u>	<u>10,637</u>	<u>35,013</u>
Total, Integrated Activities	62,865	50,195	76,865
EXTENSION ACTIVITIES			
Formula Programs:			
Smith-Lever Formula 3(b) & (c)	275,940	277,742	275,940
1890 Institutions	<u>32,117</u>	<u>31,720</u>	<u>32,117</u>
Subtotal	308,057	309,462	3 08,057
Smith-Lever 3(d) Programs:			
Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program	60,909	52,057	57,909
Pest Management	10,759	9,563	10,759
Farm Safety	0	4,911	0
Children, Youth, & Families at Risk	8,481	7,538	8,481
Youth Farm Safety Education & Certification	499	444	499
Sustainable Agriculture	3,792	4,333	3,792
Extension Indian Reservations Program	<u>1,996</u>	<u>1,774</u>	<u>1,996</u>
Subtotal	86,436	80,620	83,436
Other Extension Programs:			
Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions	3,273	2,929	3,273
Renewable Resources Extension Act	4,093	4,040	4,093
Rural Health & Safety	0	2,331	0
1890 Facilities (Section 1447)	13,500	14,912	14,912
Grants for Youth Servings Institutions	0	2,667	0
Federal Administration:			
Other	6,159	21,542	6,653
Ag in the Classroom	<u>750</u>	<u>622</u>	<u>750</u>
Subtotal	<u>27,775</u>	<u>49,043</u>	<u>29,681</u>
Total, Extension Activities	422,268	439,125	421,174
TOTAL , COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE	<u><u>\$1,014,872</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,123,912</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,020,022</u></u>

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 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% cut to its agricultural experiment station.

However, some CARAT work group members expressed optimism over a number of new grants that became 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.

Agency Personnel Update

Hegg and Rozum receive EPA award. Richard Hegg and Mary Ann Rozum were both awarded the EPA Bronze Medal for commendable service for "creating a regulation that protects the environment while supporting a major U.S. industry".

Richard and Mary Ann worked for almost 2 years on the Clean Water Act rule for the livestock and poultry industry to provide various manure handling and land application options and cost benefit analyses for livestock operations. University research was used to develop practical land application options to support good crop production and insure food safety.

Recent Plant Sciences Staff Appointments

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, Phone 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 Sciences Corporation where she was an associate on 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 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)	Email*
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
Goldner, William	Small Business; Plant Production and Protection; Forests and Related Resources	401-1719	wgoldner
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	jjones
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

* Email 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 Websites:

Plant & Animal Systems Unit:

<http://www.reeusda.gov/pas>

Pest Management Program Index:

<http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/programs/pest.htm>

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