

## **Quarterly Update to National Steering Committee**

**May 29, 2002**

**North Central IPM Facilitator** - Dr. Susan Ratcliffe of the University of Illinois worked with Larry Olsen and Jon Tollefson to develop the agenda for the joint NC PMC and NCR-201 IPM Coordinators meeting that was held in East Lansing on April 2-4, 2002. She is serving on the Steering Committee for the National IPM Symposium and as Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. She has worked with the NC PMC Steering Committee and Advisory Committee to refine the NC PMC Special Project Mini-grant Program and it will be announced in late July 2002. She is working with Mike Gray, IPM Grants Manager, on the RIMP grant program and modifications to the FY02 IPM RFA. Based on a recommendation from an Advisory Committee member, she initiated a National Pest Alert for West Nile Virus that was distributed to every state as an electronic pdf file on May 24, 2002 (Attachment 1) and 25 states have elected to purchase printed fact sheets (\$50.00 per 1,000) for a total of 70,000 copies that will be shipped on June 3, 2002. The document was reviewed by a WNV Review Team comprised of 18 entomologists who work with mosquito control issues and west nile virus. We have identified 38 individuals from 24 states that have volunteered to serve as state contacts for the WNV National Pest Alert Response Team, and have added them as links to our regional web site on WNV.

**Year 2 Center Renewal Grants** - The Center year 2 renewal RFP was sent to the NC Network members and officials at Purdue University on August 1 with a Sept 14 due date. Thirteen proposals were received requesting a total of \$918,977 (Attachment 2). A Peer Review Panel met November 9 to review all proposals. They agreed all should be funded with modification. Letters were sent to all PIs November 20 providing Panel comments. All revised proposals and year 1 final reports were received by January 1 except one. The Steering Committee met January 25 by conference call to discuss the merit of the revised proposals, the progress made on the first year's proposals, and the level of funding recommended for this year. They decided that suitable progress was made on all projects reviewed and approved all year 2 revised proposals and budgets received. Proposals were sent to USDA February 5 for their approval. Notification letters of approval were sent to all PIs February 12. USDA approval has been received at MSU, our Contract and Grant Administration has prepared renewal subcontracts which were given to the state Project Leaders on April 4, and funds are now being dispersed. Two mini-grants were approved by the Steering Committee and are being processed through USDA.

**Pest Management Strategic Plans** - During this quarter, the NC Region prepared two PMSPs. They are corn for the western part of the region on Feb 28-Mar 1 (coordinated with the eastern corn PMSP held earlier) and popcorn for the whole NC region on Mar 11. The popcorn PMSP was a shortened, one day version facilitated by Dave Pike. Both new PMSPs, along with the eastern corn PMSP, are out in draft form for comments. Future PMSPs planned in the region are cabbage for Minnesota and

Wisconsin, and soybeans to be held for the NC region in the fall. George Smith is taking leadership for the soybean PMSP. ND will be represented at the international Pea/Lentil PMSP held in Canada with the Center paying for grower participation.

**NC Pest Management Center Advisory Committee** - Susan Ratcliffe established an Advisory Committee for the NC Region which first met November 27-28. The purpose is to increase communication between the public and private pest management programs, and provide broad vision and guidance on priorities for pest management programs and advice on the future of the NC Center. At the first meeting, Advisory Committee members were provided information regarding the Pest Management Centers and the role of the Advisory Committee. A subcommittee comprised of Clif Sadof, Purdue University; Tom Green, The IPM Institute; and Jane Forest-Redfern, Ohio Citizen Action Group was formed to review the regional issues and priorities discussed at that meeting. Jane Forest-Redfern refined the working list and developed a five point document of issues that should be priorities for the region (Attachment 3). The Advisory Committee met again on April 2-4 (see below) and will meet in Kansas City in October. A subcommittee will work with Susan Ratcliffe to develop an agenda.

**Joint Pest Management Center State Project Leaders, Advisory and Steering Committee and IPM Coordinators meeting** - On April 2-4, 2002 the second annual joint meeting of these groups was held in East Lansing (Agenda Attachment 4). The Center Advisory Committee and Steering Committee actively participated in the meeting. The Advisory Committee received an update on state activities and offered suggestions on improving state programs. The committee recommended modifications to the next National Center RFP (Attachment 5). In addition, they offered a plan for distribution of future funds in the north central region (Attachment 6). A diagram was developed to illustrate the relationship between the Pest Management Centers and the IPM Coordinators (Attachment 7). State Project leaders met in a break-out session to discuss and coordinate multi-state projects.

**Regional Information Technologist** - Pat Bills was hired in late November at MSU for 50% time (25% regional and 25% state funds) as the Regional web and database manger. He is working with the Directors and IPM Facilitator to publish the information they need delivered. He has met extensively with Ron Stinner to coordinate the region and National data contents and discuss the national information management system. Pat has developed a portal site for the West Nile Virus National Pest Alert with link to many existing sites and specialists around the country. He is coordinating efforts with John VanDyk who serves as webmaster for the National IPM web site.

**Web Site Technical Committee** - Lynnae Jess and Pat Bills represent the NC Center on the Technical Web Committee. The group has redesigned the national and regional web sites, making the new entry page more attractive and easier to use, and added more information and links.

Submitted by Larry G. Olsen, Co-Director