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*Advocating for progressive integrated pest management to improve environmental, social and economic conditions through the application of scientific principles.*

## IPM Voice Update

March 22, 2012

### Last Minute Details for the Seventh International IPM Symposium

Registration remains open for the International IPM Symposium next week! More than 600 participants are currently registered. The Memphis Marriott still has a few rooms available at market rate. The final Symposium program is available [here](#). IPM Achievement awardees have been announced, [see listing](#). Session and poster abstracts can be found [online](#), available for printing. [Related activities](#): check out and register for optional tours on Monday and the Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum Visit and Reception on Monday evening.

### Find IPM Voice at the IPM Symposium!

IPM Voice is hosting a session at the IPM Symposium on **Tuesday, March 27th at 10 AM**. Our session will highlight federal funding trends for IPM as well as presentations on how to expand awareness and support for IPM. We will end the session with a presentation and discussion session on broader IPM advocacy priorities for IPM Voice. We hope to gather input from session attendees on where to focus our efforts increasing awareness and appreciation for IPM among the public, IPM users and potential users.

All IPM Voice members will be wearing "IPM Voice Member" ribbons attached to their Symposium name badges. We'll also have an IPM Voice exhibit and poster. See you at the Symposium!

### IPM Voice Builds the Case for IPM in the Farm Bill

US Farm Bill legislation sets agricultural policy for the next four years. For the first time, IPM has an organization dedicated to delivering a message about the importance of IPM in reducing pest problems, pesticide risks and long-term costs.

During the first week in March, Jim Cubie, IPM Voice's legislative representative, and Dr. Tom Green of the IPM Institute presented IPM Voice's legislative agenda to Congress. The IPM Voice Board of Directors chose five Farm Bill initiatives which were heard by all the key committees writing the Farm Bill. These initiatives are designed to increase the financial support for IPM and affirm IPM's role as an essential system which provides comprehensive solutions to the pest management challenges faced by farmers and others.

#### IPM Voice Initiatives:

1. Amend the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) to include all IPM tools. AFRI is the basic USDA external research program. The statute now lists only "biocontrol" which is one of many IPM tools.
2. Establish the position of "National IPM Coordinator" to facilitate regional and multi-agency initiatives.

3. Provide legislative authorization for the Regional IPM Centers.
4. Amend the National Institute of Food and Agriculture statute to create a positive obligation for the Secretary to continue to assist producers in adapting to changes in the availability of pesticides due to regulatory or voluntary industry changes. NIFA is the agency that has overall responsibility for USDA external research activities.
5. Allow the Secretary to waive cash match requirement for applied research if it is of national importance.

A full description of these initiatives is available [here](#).

On the Senate and House agriculture committees, staff are designated to handle research including IPM. We met with 12 key staff members from both parties. We gave each member a fact sheet on the importance of IPM to US agriculture and a fact sheet that describes how important IPM is to the state for which they have specific responsibility. We pointed out that the USDA's 2013 budget only mentioned one IPM initiative that has saved farmers \$1 billion (IPM PIPE for Asian Soybean Rust). We are now following up, providing additional information that members requested. Much work needs to be done but we have reason to hope that all or part of the IPM legislative agenda will become part of the Farm Bill.

At the same time we are working to build broader support for IPM. The National Association of Independent Crop Consultants has endorsed our legislative agenda and we are working hard to convince specialty crop organizations to support it as well.

You are a critical part of this process. Being heard for the first time is a big step - but now that the importance of IPM is understood we need to make it a priority. To get that done, IPM Voice needs your help. If you have had any contact with the offices of the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Committees on Agriculture including Congressional Members or Senators we would like to know. We understand that universities have restrictions on contact with Congressional offices and will make sure that those restrictions are honored. Please contact Jim Cubie at [jimcubie@gmail.com](mailto:jimcubie@gmail.com), 843-991-1059 and he will follow up with you.

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### **Proposed Crop Protection Program Would Allow Indirect**

In the President's proposed budget, funds formerly designated for the IR-4 Minor Crop Pest Management Program, E-IPM - State-based IPM Coordinators, Regional IPM Grants Program and the Expert IPM Decision Support System are combined into a new Crop Protection Program. USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) plans a series of listening sessions (see article below) to develop this new concept further. An important implication of the new proposal is that all funding would be subject to 30% indirect cost recovery by the host land-grant institution. Currently, only the Regional IPM Centers and the Pest Management Alternatives Program are subject to indirect costs. The proposed indirect cost translates into a potential 30% cut in available funding for implementation. IPM Voice is working to educate stakeholders and policymakers about these potential impacts, which would be devastating to IPM programs which have already been subject to disproportionate reductions in funding over the past decade, and especially since 2010.

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### **Weigh In on the New Crop Protection Program**

NIFA will hold the first in a series of listening sessions on the new Crop Protection Program in Memphis on March 29, from 2 to 5 PM, immediately following the IPM Symposium. Listening session webinars will be held during the afternoon (EST) of April 11th and May 1st. An in-person session will be held in Washington on April 16th.

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### **Resources for IPM Practitioners**

[IPMnet NEWS](#) is a free, electronic IPM information service conducted in collaboration with the Integrated Plant Protection Center (IPPC) at Oregon State University, [www.ipmnet.org](http://www.ipmnet.org). IPMnet NEWS is a source for IPM information and developments on a global scale.

[The IPM Practitioner](#) focuses on management alternatives for insects, mites, ticks, vertebrates, weeds and plant pathogens. Each issue contains an in-depth article on a research topic. Articles range from 6-12 pages in length and include numerous references for further research.

[IPM in the Marketplace](#) is the newsletter of the IPM Institute of North America featuring articles on topics relevant to IPM stakeholders including developments in IPM certification and labeling.

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### **IPM Voice Needs Your Support!**

Please join or renew your IPM Voice membership for 2012 by visiting <http://www.ipmvoice.org/join.htm>.

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*IPM Voice is an independent, non-profit organization advocating for integrated pest management (IPM) that is genuinely progressive and seeks continuous improvement of environmental, social and economic conditions through application of accepted scientific principles. IPM Voice was formed in 2010 by more than 35 professionals working to expand the benefits IPM has provided to agriculture and communities for more than 40 years.*

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