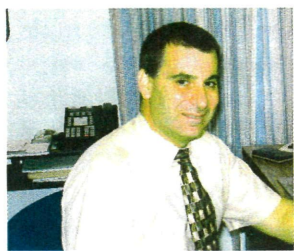


IR-4 Names Jerry Baron as Executive Director



On September 1, 2006, it became official, Dr. Jerry J. Baron, Associate Director, was named to the position of IR-4 Executive Director. Jerry fills the vacancy of Dr. Robert E. Holm, as he retires.

As IR-4 Executive Director, Jerry is responsible for the day to day operations of

IR-4 Project Headquarters, where he oversees a staff of eighteen scientific and eight administrative professionals.

Additionally, he is responsible for managing an annual operations budget of \$3.23 million. Jerry reports directly to the IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) and the Director of New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Mark Robson.


"I am very pleased to announce Jerry's promotion to IR-4 Executive Director,

which reflects his outstanding leadership and performance in a very critical role," said Dr. Maurice Marshall, IR-4 PMC Chair. "Throughout Jerry's twenty year tenure with IR-4 he has demonstrated his ability to lead with sound judgment, exceptional knowledge and strong experience. He has contributed significantly to our ongoing efforts to develop and implement policies and strategies for the national IR-4 Project."

Jerry has been serving as IR-4's Associate Director

since 2002. Prior to his current role, he was an Associate to the Rutgers University Executive Dean of Cook College and was the Assistant Director of IR-4, a position he had held since 1998. Jerry has also held positions as IR-4 National Coordinator, Associate and Assistant Research Professor.

In 1998, Jerry co-authored the second edition of Food and Feed Crops of the United States along with G.M. Markle and B.A. Schneider, and has authored nearly one hundred peer reviewed journal articles.

Jerry received his Ph.D. in Horticulture with emphasis on weed management from North Carolina State University and earned his M.S. and B.S. degrees from The Ohio State University. He currently serves as Vice President of the Northeastern Weed Science Society and is a delegate on the national CODEX Committee on Pesticide Residues. 



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Survey Results Are In!

Every year the IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program runs a survey to determine the top issues growers face. The survey results have great impact in what research direction the program takes, because the grower-identified top issues can become the high priority research projects for the following year. Those research projects are determined at the annual workshop using the survey

results and other sources. In general, those diseases, insects, and weeds without registered products are ranked higher at the workshop than those that can be controlled with currently available commercial products.

In 2006, the grower / extension survey ran from June 2 through September 1. Over 300 people participated: 232 growers, 20 landscape care

professionals, 70 researchers & extension agents, and 11 allied-industry professionals. Those who took the survey ranked 13 different research needs on a scale of 0 (no importance) to 5 (very high importance), and then listed the top three disease, insect, and weed problems where product choices are limited. The continued need for new insecticides,

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Application Technology Training at Rutgers

— by Northeast Region IR-4 FRD, Marylee Ross; IR-4 QA Specialist, Jane Forder; IR-4 Assistant Director, Van Starner

On September 19, five IR-4ers from headquarters and the Northeast Region took part in a USDA-SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) Sprayer Application Technology Program at the Snyder Research and Extension Farm outside of Pittstown, NJ. Participants were primarily agricultural professionals who provide educational assistance to farmers, or in other words, folks who train the farmers in application techniques.

The 390 acre Snyder Farm is Rutgers' center for sustainable agriculture. Directed by Dr. John Grande, personnel at the farm perform and share results of research applicable to the production of a number of crops, including, but not limited to grains, small fruits, turf grass and ornamentals.

This training program was funded by a \$48,000 grant from the Northeast Region SARE to focus on issues facing small acreage farmers who typically apply liquid pest control products to



Sorghum plot being sprayed with SURROUND WP using a hand powered piston-pump backpack sprayer.

their crops. Issues such as the lack of detailed application instructions on pesticide product labels, application of products with varying physical consistencies, and lack of training in small scale application technologies were addressed. Several one-day, hands-on training sessions were funded, this one at the Snyder Farm. Events are proposed for 2007 in Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Our training began in the field with simultaneous application demonstrations of four different sprayers, applying the kaolin-based product, SURROUND WP, to equal sized plots of sorghum. A hand-powered piston-pump backpack sprayer, a gasoline-powered backpack sprayer, a gasoline powered backpack mist blower and a tractor mounted boom sprayer were demonstrated. Afterward, John led a discussion of the application results in terms of plant coverage, amount of time to complete the applications, drift patterns and cost of application, discussing the pros and cons of using

the various sprayer types.

After lunch, John, with assistance from Henry Fischetti and Ed Dager, gave a detailed visual presentation and demonstrations on backpack sprayer, pump and nozzle design, calibration of speed, pressure and area coverage. He also talked about sprayer modification and adaptation to fit application needs.

During his demo, John pointed out that there is often a "disconnect" between manufacturers of sprayers and manufacturers of nozzles/accessories. Occasionally modifications to the boom/nozzle set up are necessary to obtain the best spray pattern and coverage. He and Henry demonstrated a number of ways to modify the boom. On one sprayer, they cut off the hose at the tank end and put on an entirely new boom. For another spray set up, they adapted the existing nozzle configuration, changing it from one nozzle to two nozzles, by adding readily available nozzle components. John also pointed out that some sprayers just can't be modified. John emphasized the "working end" or nozzle section of pesticide application equipment, by demonstrating how application patterns, consistency of



Mixing Kaolin-based SURROUND WP solution for backpack mist blower sprayer demonstration.

coverage and drift patterns are influenced by nozzle choice and distance from the crop. He stressed the need to choose the most appropriate nozzle and sprayer to ensure the best crop coverage. John mentioned that by putting the working end of a backpack sprayer in the hands of the applicator, it allows her/him to make conscious decisions during the application with regards to shutting the sprayer off if needed, as would be the case if there were portions of the plot with plant skips. To quote John, "utilizing good pesticide application practices including nozzle selection, can provide a basis for reducing pesticide use rates within the label parameters".

After John's presentation, participants were offered the opportunity to "try on" any one of the many sprayers on display in combination with any number of available nozzles to see for themselves how they fit.

Certainly all who participated in this event took away a wealth of sprayer technology knowledge to pass on to farmers, researchers and other pesticide applicators. ▲