

## **A Pest Management Strategic Plan for IPM in Schools in the United States**

Henderson, Nevada was the setting for a national IPM in schools Pest Management Strategic Plan workgroup meeting on October 24–25. Sherry Glick, USEPA, arranged the meeting near her Las Vegas office. The workshop was preceded by a tour of a local school to assess its pest issues. Fifteen participants met with the school's principal and pest control superintendent to discuss problem areas. During a walk-through, cockroaches were noted in the kitchen area and particularly in the PTA room (which, interestingly, is off limits to the custodial staff). The walk-through gave the participants a chance to see and discuss some of the issues facing teachers, students, administrators, and school staff relating to pest control. Funding for pest control, children's health, and implementation of IPM were concerns expressed by the school officials. Current pest control practices are generally on a reactionary basis, with too few preemptive measures taken.

During the two-day workshop, 31 participants drafted a strategic plan to meet the group's agreed upon goal of

implementing high-level IPM in K–12 schools nationwide by 2015. High-level IPM implementation would include, among other things, IPM education for everyone involved in schools, from students to administrators, and extensive use of non-chemical controls such as architectural design. Participants from public school districts, university extension, regulatory agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and industry came from all over the U.S. to participate in the workshop. Discussions revolved around such questions as:

- What are the pest problems?
- Where are they within a school?
- What are the management options?
- Who needs to address them?
- Who needs to be educated to achieve the goal of high-level implementation by 2015?

Tom Green, of the IPM Institute of North America in Madison, WI, is the lead principal investigator for this project. Tom anticipates completion of the strategic plan early in 2007. Funding for the strategic plan workshop and publication came from all four regional IPM centers and directly from USDA-CSREES.

Pest management strategic plans were originally developed for cropping systems. They are now being expanded to address nonagricultural settings.



*Workgroup members met with the school principal and pest control superintendent to discuss pest control issues at the school.*

Rick Melnicore

This allows policymakers to receive input on pest management issues from the broadest array of stakeholders. The regional IPM centers recognize that supporting strategic plans, such as the IPM in Schools PMSP, brings together a wider range of experts in pest management. Our collaborations with other agencies (EPA, HUD, local governments, school districts, etc.) enhance opportunities to expand IPM.



*Cockroach droppings were found in the PTA room of the school during a walkthrough by IPM in Schools workgroup members.*

Rick Melnicore

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# Director's Comments

The staff at the Western IPM Center wishes you a happy and fruitful new year. This year will continue to offer challenges and opportunities to all of us involved in IPM research and extension. We feel the Western IPM Center is well positioned to help address many of these challenges.

Challenges will include human issues such as exposures to *E. coli* and other pathogens and pesticide and dust exposure. Environmental issues include air and water quality, nutrient management, sediment runoff, and pesticide drift.

Integrated pest management, whether it is initiated by individuals or suggested by Cooperative Extension and university researchers, commodity organizations, or governmental programs, is essential in order to reduce exposure to pesticides and to provide sustainable and economical ways of controlling pests. Usually IPM just makes sense – we want to reduce pesticide use and reduce the cost of pest management. By using IPM techniques, both can be accomplished. However, there can be a steep learning curve. This learning can be hastened by good research and extension. This requires funding and time.

Speaking of funding.... As reported in our last issue, Congress has not passed a budget for most programs, including USDA. Before leaving town in December, lawmakers extended the continuing resolution for all but the two agencies with FY07 budgets until February 15. Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd, D-West Virginia, and incoming House Appropriations Chairman David Obey, D-Wisconsin, announced

December 18 that they will not seek to pass individual appropriations bills when the new Congress convenes in January. Instead, they will craft a joint funding resolution to cover agencies until the end of fiscal year 2007. Tom Gavin, spokesman for Robert Byrd, said Byrd and Obey are calling the measure a joint funding resolution because, unlike a continuing resolution, it won't be a cookie-cutter approach. He said the assessment of needs will be conducted at the departmental and agency level and could possibly include individual programs. "It's complicated," he said. "But it's not as detailed as appropriations bills and won't involve policy decisions" (*Federal Times*, December 13, 2006).

Word seems finally to have gotten around about funding opportunities managed by the Western IPM Center. The latest round of competitive proposals included the usual agriculture-related projects. However, we are now seeing proposals for IPM in urban and natural areas. These new arenas for IPM funding reflect the national and regional commitment to the National IPM Roadmap's program areas.

In the next few months we will be soliciting priorities for calls for proposals that will be issued by the Western IPM Center in 2007. These annual calls ensure that our clientele have an opportunity to bring forth pest management issues of importance in the West. Our Steering Committee selects categories and specific needs for inclusion in Western IPM Center calls for proposals. This is your chance to guide us in finding solutions to important needs.

*Rick Melnicoe*

## State Brief

### Montana

#### **Sue Blodgett Accepts Position at South Dakota State**

On February 1, Sue Blodgett, the Montana State University (MSU) IPM Coordinator since 1994, assumes the Plant Science Department Head position at South Dakota State University. This large department of 35 faculty includes crops, soils, and the pest management disciplines (weeds, diseases, and insects). This shift to the North Central Region will enable Sue to renew ties from her graduate student days at Kansas State University. She has already been in touch with Sue Ratcliffe, Co-Director of the North Central IPM (NCIPM) Center, and looks forward to working with the Center. "I have enjoyed my work with the Western Region IPM program. The Western Region has developed a responsive IPM program that is highly valued by our clientele." The MSU Extension Service IPM program is recognized throughout Montana as a valuable source of timely information, training programs, and research that provides solutions to pest management problems.

#### **MSU Holds Crop Pest Management School, Commercial Vegetable Pest Management School**

How to get the most from your land, your livestock, and your time was the focus of the **Crop Pest Management School**, January 2–4. The school used hands-on identification techniques to look at insect and weed pest management, investigated the use of renewable energy, and familiarized par-

ticipants with how to access and apply resources from MSU College of Agriculture departments, MSU Extension, and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.

Themes of the one-day **Commercial Vegetable Pest Management School**, held January 4, included commercial vegetable pest management, IPM to solve problems, production, noxious weed identification, and marketing. Speakers offered insights into conventional and organic production techniques and how MSU research can assist and enhance commercial vegetable growing.

For PDFs of brochures for both Schools, session materials, and related Web links, go to <http://www.ipm.montana.edu/>.

*Paraphrased from Montana State University News Releases, November 1 and 14, 2006.*

#### **Pest Management Training**

The Montana IPM Center conducted a five-day tour offering Pest Management Training meetings throughout Region 4 last October, ending the recertification cycle. The trainings covered as many sites as possible to deliver a quality 6-credit recertification training opportunity for clients who had not accrued their required credits.

*For further information contact Will Lanier, Insect Diagnostician and Integrated Crop and Pest Management (ICPM) Assistant, Montana State University, [wlanier@montana.edu](mailto:wlanier@montana.edu).*

# Addressing Western IPM Issues: Interim Project Results

The Western IPM Center works with stakeholders to create collaborative relationships that identify and address critical pest management needs that are responsive to economic, environmental, and human health and safety concerns. In order to meet this goal, the WIPMC releases an annual Request for Applications. The following reports highlight interim results of two previously funded projects.

## Potato IPM Scouting Manual (A Pocket Guide in English and Spanish)

Project Director: Ronda Hirnyck, University of Idaho

**Problem:** There are currently no IPM manuals specifically directed at field scouting for potato production, nor are there any such manuals in Spanish.



Reed Findley

Co-Project Director Wayne Johnson, University of Idaho (UI) Extension Educator (center, in back), and Project Coordinator Lisa Downey, UI Pest Management Information Coordinator, demonstrate the basics of scouting to a group of agricultural workers on a farm in Grace, Idaho.

in Pocatello, Idaho, that included a hands-on portion in which attendees used the sample manual to identify diseases. Feedback indicated that certain aspects of the sample manual were confusing to the user, while other details were helpful. This input helped investigators make further decisions about the presentation and organization of the manual. Subsequent pilot workshops were conducted in Blackfoot, Grace, and American Falls, Idaho, using the same presentation format, but utilizing the revised sample manuals.

## Monitoring and Mass Trapping Olive Fruit Fly in California

Project Director: Paul Vossen, University of California Cooperative Extension, Sonoma County

**Problem:** Since 1998, the olive fruit fly (*Bactrocera oleae*) has quickly become the most devastating pest for California's commercial table olive and olive oil industries. The pest threatens the 36,000-acre, \$60 million table olive industry, the rapidly

growing olive oil industry with 6,000 acres in production (\$9 million), and the many hobby olive growers.

### Objectives:

To develop specific economic thresholds based on trap catches from monitoring traps; evaluate various mass trapping techniques and compare efficacy with alternative sprayable pesticides; correlate fruit damage with oil quality; and disseminate this information to commercial and noncommercial olive growers.

**Interim Results:** The 2005 season trial design compared four different mass trapping devices (at a rate of one per tree) in and around Sonoma, California. There were untreated control trees and a sticky panel monitor trap for each location. Results indicated the average damage level for each of the treatments was more or less in line with the previous year's findings: McPhail-



Alexandra Devarenne

Olive fruit fly damage.

> continued on page 8

## State Brief

### Idaho

#### Spanish-Language Pesticide Safety Training for Pesticide Handlers

The Idaho Pest Management Center (IPMC) assisted with a new program in 2006: Spanish-Language Pesticide Safety Training for Pesticide Handlers. The need for training conducted in Spanish was magnified in the summer of 2005 when numerous farmworkers in Canyon County fell ill as a result of pesticide exposure that happened because of a series of communication failures. Participants evaluating the training felt it was very useful and needed. They commented that they had learned new things about several aspects of pesticide safety as a result of attending the training.

#### Training for County Educators

Last October, the IPMC collaborated with the CSREES water quality coordinators in the Pacific Northwest to plan and develop a two-day training for county educators focusing on regional water quality and pest management issues. The goal of the workshop was to foster multistate and multidisciplinary collaborations. The training workshop was well attended by extension faculty from Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

## Jennifer Miller

*Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, Northwestern Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides*

To find the roots of her passion for sustainable agriculture, Jennifer Miller says you need to go back to her childhood on her family's dairy farm in the hilly country of northeast Iowa. Miller, a member of the Western IPM Center's Advisory and Steering Committees since 2003, says her father "approached things differently from neighboring farmers," using strips of different crops – corn, hay, soybeans – for erosion control, practicing habitat conservation, and expressing concern about the chemicals he had seen his father use on the farm.

Building on that background, Miller, who received a B.S. in biology from the University of Northern Iowa in 1994 and a Ph.D. in plant physiology from The Pennsylvania State University in 2000, says it was her attendance at a Pennsylvania sustainable agriculture conference as a graduate student that clinched her desire to focus on sustainable agriculture in her career. In 2002 Miller joined the staff of the Eugene, Oregon-

based Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) to coordinate their Sustainable Agriculture Program.

NCAP's Sustainable Agriculture Program focuses on working with farmers to create healthier farms and foods. They study, demonstrate, and promote ecologically sound practices to build soil health and control

crop pests. Since potatoes are the most pesticide-intensive crop in the Northwest, and since Idaho is where most of the potatoes in the Northwest are grown, the Program chose to reach out to potato farmers in Idaho. By concentrating their efforts on ecologically sound potato production, they feel they can more readily develop working models that can



*Panda Jones*

*Jennifer Miller speaks at a 2005 field day at the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' Fort Hall Reservation.*

be adapted to other crop enterprises.

Since her arrival at NCAP, Miller has spent extensive time in outreach to Idaho potato growers, including those leasing land on the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' Fort Hall Reservation in southeast Idaho. They control some of the best potato

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***"IPM plays an incredibly important role in sustainable agriculture, because it is looking for solutions that will be good for the environment, water, air, farmworkers, etc., but it is also focused on the economic aspects so it can be sustained."***

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producing land in the world—about 85,000 acres of it. But intensive potato production has resulted in water contamination and soil degradation. Most of Fort Hall's potato farmers were routinely carrying out preplant fumigation with metam sodium. NCAP's outreach emphasized green manure cropping (incorporating a cover crop into the soil while it is still green in order to improve soil characteristics

and control pests and diseases) and crop rotation, and these new practices have reduced metam sodium use. Green manure cropping on the reservation has grown from 80 acres during Miller's first year on the job to 3,500 acres today.

In addition to the Fort Hall project, the Sustainable Agriculture Program has been supporting the expansion of

organic potato production in Idaho. They are working with University of Idaho researchers and Potato Growers of Idaho (a nonprofit grower group) to demonstrate organic potato methods and to assess market opportunities. Additional projects include conducting other on-farm research and demonstration, leading tours on farms practicing ecologically sound alternatives, offering educational conferences and workshops, publishing a regular newsletter, and disseminating information and education through public speaking.

Asked about the role of IPM in sustainable agriculture, Miller said, "IPM plays an incredibly important role in sustainable agriculture, because it is looking for solutions that will be good for the environment, water, air, farmworkers, etc., but it is also focused on the economic aspects so it can be sustained." She was enthusiastic about joining the Western IPM Center's Steering and Advisory Committees, because "it was an opportunity to work at a much larger level than just in Idaho or the Pacific Northwest." Also, Miller found it "exciting for an environmental nonprofit to take a seat at the table with researchers, businesses, and educators. It says something about the direction of the Western IPM Center, as well as about NCAP."

Miller resides with her husband, Matt Miller, in Boise, where Matt works at the Nature Conservancy. Both have recently started running, and Miller completed her first half marathon (13.1 miles) last fall. She plans to run the Robie Creek half marathon (dubbed "The Toughest Half Marathon in the Northwest") in Boise this spring.

*Jennifer Miller can be reached at [jmiller@pesticide.org](mailto:jmiller@pesticide.org).*

**Washington State****New Urban Pest Resource Available**

The Washington State University Urban IPM and Pesticide Safety Education Program launched a new web-based resource, *Pestsense*, to provide information on managing common indoor pest problems with IPM. The majority of home and garden pesticide users have inadequate information on IPM approaches for managing pests. According to the Washington 2004 Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Review Panel (PIRT) Report, in 2002 and 2003, 61 and 73 pesticide exposures were non-agricultural and non-occupational, respectively. The majority of these exposures occurred in homes and apartments, 52 (85%) in 2002 and 62 (85%) in 2003. In both years, many of the exposures (20 and 16, respectively) happened because

the occupant was trying to manage pests found within the structure, such as ants, spiders, fleas, and wasps. *Pestsense* provides effective, science-based, and least-hazardous pest management options for household indoor pests including food and fabric pests, nuisance pests, stinging and biting pests, and wood-destroying pests. Each fact sheet has information on pest biology, pest identification, and management options including cultural, biological, and chemical methods. Currently, *Pestsense* contains over 40 pest fact sheets and updates, and new fact sheets will be added periodically. *Pestsense*, <http://pep.wsu.edu/pestsense>, was designed after the very successful *Hortsense*, <http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense>, which provides home gardener fact sheets on managing plant problems.

## CALIFORNIA

**California****New Interim Director for UC Statewide IPM Program**

Dr. Peter Goodell has taken over the reins of the University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program (UC IPM) as Interim Director. Goodell replaces Richard Roush, who served as director from 2003 to 2006. In November 2006, Roush left for Australia to serve as Dean of the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Land and Food Resources.

Goodell, an entomologist and nematologist, has been with UC IPM almost from its inception. Since 1981, he has worked with UC Cooperative Extension advisors, pest control advisors, and campus-based specialists. Until 1991, he was based in Kern County, and since then he has worked at UC's Kearney Agricultural Center in Parlier.

As an IPM advisor, he develops IPM tactics and strategies for managing insects and nematodes on field crops including cotton, alfalfa seed, dry beans, and forage in the San Joaquin Valley. He is well known for his work with the cotton industry, cotton growers, and cotton commodity groups to develop solutions for pest problems such as whiteflies and aphids. Since 1988, Goodell has served as the IPM Extension Coordinator for the UC IPM Program and is responsible for coordinating and reviewing the activities of eight UC IPM advisors throughout California.

*UC IPM Press Release, December 7, 2006. Contact Stephanie Klunk, UC IPM Program, (530) 754-6724.*

**Tomich to Lead Agricultural Sustainability Institute and SAREP**

Dr. Thomas Tomich, a California-trained agricultural economist with a doctorate in food systems research, has been

selected to lead UC Davis' new Agricultural Sustainability Institute and the statewide UC Agriculture and Natural Resources' Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP). In connection with his appointment, he has been named professor and first holder of the UC Davis W.K. Kellogg Endowed Chair in Sustainable Food Systems.

Tomich is currently global coordinator of the Alternatives to Slash-and-Burn (ASB) Programme, which is hosted by the World Agroforestry Centre, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. Tomich will be based at UC Davis and will transition to his new duties in January 2007.

The new Agricultural Sustainability Institute draws together several UC Davis campus programs and numerous faculty members whose research and teaching interests span a broad array of disciplines including plant and animal sciences, pest and disease sciences, natural resource conservation, food science and nutrition, economics, sociology, education, agricultural environmental policy, and community development.

*UC SAREP Press Release, June 2006. Contact Lyra Halprin, UC SAREP, (530) 752-8664.*

**Pesticide Use Report for 2005 Released**

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation has released its annual Pesticide Use Report for 2005. California's full use reporting system includes all agricultural use and most non-agricultural uses of pesticides, with the exception of homeowner uses. The report may be accessed at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pressrls/2006/061115.htm>.

## Soybean Rust Monitoring in the West—An Update

From May to September, 2006, Colorado State University's Howard Schwartz coordinated a network of more than 40 sentinel plots in four western states (Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) and Canada, monitoring for soybean rust. The plots were planted with legumes (primarily common bean, *Phaseolus vulgaris*). State Coordinators, in place to oversee



Tan lesions on a soybean leaf.

Reid Frederick USDA-ARS © The University of Georgia. www.ipmimages.org

the monitoring, shared data with National Plant Diagnostic Network state contacts and uploaded data to the USDA/CSREES Soybean Rust Web site, where weekly survey data were made available to the public at <http://sbrusa.net/>.

During the monitoring period, there were no suspicious samples of soybean rust detected in any sentinel plot or commercial field of legume in the western region. In addition to contributing valuable information to the national monitoring program, timely reporting in the west allowed pest management specialists to advise crop consultants and growers regarding soybean rust disease status and threat. As a result, 240,000 acres of common bean (Colorado, 100,000 acres; Idaho, 100,000 acres; Oregon, 10,000 acres; and Washington, 30,000

acres) were not sprayed needlessly with a preventive fungicide. This provided economic benefits to growers and reduced chemical exposure to the environment and food supply.

Plans are under way to expand soybean rust (and other pest) monitoring on legume crops during 2007, with the addition of other western states, including Arizona, California, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, to the 2006 network members.

Howard F. Schwartz, Professor of Plant Pathology and Research & Extension Specialist at Colorado State University, is the principal investigator for the USDA grant that funds this research. He can be reached at [Howard.Schwartz@ColoState.EDU](mailto:Howard.Schwartz@ColoState.EDU).

## State Brief

### Arizona

#### Arizona Pest Management Center Website

The University of Arizona (UA) has launched a new Web site for the Arizona Pest Management Center (APMC) at <http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/>. The goal of the APMC, an umbrella organization within the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is to create a working environment in which the science and implementation of IPM can thrive in Arizona. The Web site serves UA faculty and stakeholders and provides an inventory of funded IPM projects and activities. For more information contact Al Fournier at [fournier@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:fournier@cals.arizona.edu).

#### New Legislation: Pesticides in Childcare Facilities

The Arizona legislature recently passed a bill (effective January 2007) intended to protect infants and children in childcare settings from pesticide exposure. SB1350 requires that childcare facilities use licensed pesticide applicators, that applicators notify facilities at least 72 hours prior to applications, and that childcare facilities in turn notify parents, guardians, staff, and children at least 48 hours before applying pesticides. The Arizona Children's Environmental Health Coalition, headed by UA Urban IPM Team Leader Dawn Gouge, played a role in the development of the bill and conducts trainings of pest management professionals, childcare providers, and school facilities managers in Arizona. The bill includes exemptions to notification and posting requirements for specific reduced-risk practices such as the use of paste or gel insecticide baits in secured or enclosed locations. It is

## ARIZONA

hoped that these exemptions will encourage an IPM approach instead of routine preventive pesticide sprays in childcare settings and schools. For more information contact Dawn Gouge at [dhgouge@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:dhgouge@ag.arizona.edu).

#### Statewide Citrus Greening Survey

The Arizona Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with UA and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), conducted a statewide survey for the early detection of citrus greening, a potentially devastating bacterial disease of citrus that was detected in Florida in September 2006. The survey of 19,820 residences and nearly 400 commercial locations failed to detect the pathogen in Arizona. This cooperative effort is part of a national program of Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys (CAPS) designed to detect new invasive pests and to facilitate rapid responses. Other CAPS efforts in 2006 targeted the pecan weevil and the cactus moth. For more information contact Mike Wallace at [mwallace@azda.gov](mailto:mwallace@azda.gov).

#### New IPM Training Materials for Arizona PCAs

UA has collaborated with the Arizona Crop Protection Association (ACPA) and the Arizona Department of Agriculture in a project to revise training materials for the licensing of certified Pest Control Advisors in Arizona. The new manual, with a targeted release in 2007, will emphasize integrated pest management and integrated crop management practices and will be made available through ACPA. For more information contact Al Fournier, [fournier@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:fournier@cals.arizona.edu).

# From Peaches to Peas: The Ponderings of a Comment Coordinator

By Jane M. Thomas, Washington State University, Richland, WA

I have now been working for almost four years as the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Comment Coordinator for the Western IPM Center (WIPMC), providing regulators with pesticide use information for the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. I was pleased when WIPMC Director Rick Melnicoe asked me if I would write an article about my experiences. Well, just stand back! There's one thing we Comment Coordinators learn early and that's to speak up and voice an opinion when someone asks for it.

After some quiet reflection I concluded that what would be really useful to the world at large is to describe the characteristics required in a perfect Comment Coordinator. Since I was the first person to hold this position, I decided, with all due humility, to describe myself.

**Patience.** The first and foremost requirement for a good Comment Coordinator is patience. Anyone who knows me well can just stop smirking right now! Yes, it happens that Marguerite, not Patience, is my middle name, and for good reason. Since I started as a Comment Coordinator I have e-mailed Rick on several occasions using ALL CAPITAL LETTERS and sometimes even resorting to #@!%&. (As in, "Patience my #@!%&! Have you SEEN this ridiculous request??")

But seriously, there are two things that really try my nonexistent patience: disorganized information requests and requests with short turnaround times. If people don't give some thought to their information request, bad things happen. When a request is made, I, trusting Comment Coordinator that I am, go about my business and begin collecting information. When an initial request hasn't been thought through I usually end up getting a second request—either for slightly different information or for additional information. Typically, I have already contacted a whole bunch of busy people, and now I have to go back and bother them with questions I should have been able to ask the first time. This has the added irritation of making me look disorganized, which I can do all by myself, thank you very much! Obviously there are times when a response triggers additional questions—that isn't the phenomenon I am talking about here. I'm talking about three requests in a single month for data on the same chemical. Think it through, folks!

Then there's the issue of turnaround time. As the PNW Comment Coordinator, I represent six people: the Pesticide Coordinators for each of the aforementioned states. Back when this whole Comment Coordinator idea was hatched, the six state leads asked that I give them a minimum of a week to review each response before it is submitted to EPA or USDA. When I receive a short-turnaround information request, I usually end up shorting the Pesticide Coordinators their review time. I am sensitive to this because the responses I prepare speak for the



states, and I view the review as critical. The short-turnaround requests also shortchange the number of sources I have time to consult. Because agriculture in the PNW is diverse and production practices may vary across the region, the short-turnaround responses are typically not as complete as I would like. A three-week turnaround provides time for me to research the use patterns, ask my questions, get responses from key people who might be out of town or especially busy, draft a response, get comments back on the draft, incorporate any changes, and submit the final response. Anything less, well—let's just say it tries my patience.

**Organizational Skills.** Obviously this job requires someone who is very organized. Questions come in, replies have deadlines, and I'm the one responsible for keeping track of who said what. Often the questions are multi-part, and complete answers require many contacts. Frankly, it's a little daunting. I have resorted to using a database to track the projects that I work on and to store the information I collect in the process. When I'm ready to compose a response I retrieve the information I have collected for the project, sort through this "data dump," and compose a response letter. Despite my best organizational efforts and the use of this very cool database, for one project I managed to create an entirely new human being by grafting the first name of a USDA contact onto the last name of the EPA Chemical Review Manager. I addressed the response letter to this hybrid person.

I was saved further embarrassment when our very thorough in-house editor caught the error. Whew! I've learned the hard way that having correct information in that groovy database is no guarantee I'll retrieve or assemble it correctly. Where my stellar organizational skills fail, crosschecking and double-checking come to the rescue.

**Good Typing Skills.** Speaking of editors, during my tenure as Comment Coordinator, I have provided a great deal of comic relief to

our editor on several occasions thanks to my great typing skills. She really enjoyed the response letter where I discussed rouging when I meant to say roguing. By the way, does anyone out there have any information about the use of permethrin on filed cron? Oooh, I just hate to admit it but my mother was right—I should have learned to type so that I would have a skill to fall back on.

**Acute Hearing.** I discovered the importance of this attribute when I was trying to collect information on malathion use. A grower left a message on my voice mail regarding his malathion use on green beans. OK, so what if no one else in the PNW had reported significant malathion use on succulent beans, I reasoned. If it was important to this one grower, then I was going to collect his information and report it. When I got him on the

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**"So you want to be a Comment Coordinator? All you need is patience, good organizational and typing skills, and decent hearing."**

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## From Peaches to Peas—from page 7

phone he began discussing on farm grain storage and his use of malathion in cleaning and treating his grain storage bin. I duly noted everything he said and at the close of the call asked, “So, what about the use on green beans?” To which he replied “Green beans? Green beans! I don’t grow no stinkin’ green beans.” (Or something like that.) After saying “green beans” and “grain bins” aloud a few times, I finally understood the transmogrification.

So you want to be a Comment Coordinator? All you need is patience, good organizational and typing skills, and decent hearing. Pardon me, what was that you said? Or not. I have none of these attributes and I seem to be bumbling along okay.

*Jane M. Thomas is the Pacific Northwest Comment Coordinator for WIPMC and the Pesticide Notification Network Coordinator for Washington State University. From 2000 to 2003 (a period now considered “the Golden Age of Agricultural Journalism”), she also reigned as her alter ego, the Queen Bee of Labels (QBL) in the monthly newsletter Agrichemical & Environmental News. Contact Jane at [jmthomas@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:jmthomas@tricity.wsu.edu).*

## Interim Results—from page 3

type trap—16.7%; OLIPE trap 30.6%; yellow sticky panel trap—46.0%; attract-and-kill device—41.6%; spinosad bait—7.8%; kaolin clay—2.3% and the untreated control—84.9%. In a wider area program (two sites in the Windsor/Healdsburg, CA area), the average success of the trapping was better: 3.5% for the OLIPE and 2.6% for the attract-and-kill. The kaolin was extremely effective, having less than 1% damage.

Investigators have shared their results with other California researchers in two formal fruit fly talks (Asilomar and Riverside, CA, 2005) and with the UC olive fruit fly workgroup. Their Web site, <http://cesonoma.ucdavis.edu>, contains three practical publications written for growers and gardeners that help them choose the best-known control options. The First Press newsletters, fall 2005 and winter 2006, contain updated articles on olive fly control.

Investigators have been unable, so far, to correlate monitor trap catches with damage at harvest or to adequately correlate fruit fly damage at harvest with the sensory quality of the oil. These two aspects of the research need more work. The design for the investigators’ 2006 field trials was similar to 2005 for control comparisons, but focused more on finding correlations for better fly monitoring and the relationship between fly damage and oil quality.



*Alexandra Devarenne evaluates fruit fly damage.*

Paul Vossen

## Mark Your Calendar

### 2007 January

- National Plant Diagnostic Network Meeting, Jan. 28–31, Orlando, FL.

### February

- CA Cotton PMSP, Feb. 20, Fresno, CA.
- AZ Cotton PMSP, Feb. 22, Phoenix, AZ.
- The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance 7th annual working conference. Feb. 25–28, Reno, NV. <http://tpsalliance.org/>

### March

- Western Society of Weed Science, Mar. 13–15, Portland, OR. <http://www.wsweedscience.org/meeting/meeting.asp>
- Pacific Branch Entomological Society of America Meeting, Mar. 25–28, Portland, OR. <http://oregonstate.edu/pbesa/>
- Western IPM Center State Contacts Meeting, Mar. 28–29, Portland, OR.

### May

- Western IPM Center Advisory/Steering Committees Meeting, May 1–2, Portland, OR.
- International Master Gardener Conference, May 2–5, Little Rock, AR. <http://mg2007.uaex.edu/>
- 2007 Urban Extension Conference, May 7–10, Kansas City, MO. <http://extension.missouri.edu/urbanconf/>
- Western Pesticide Meeting, May 15–17, Portland, OR. [http://pep.wsu.edu/wrpm/WRPM\\_07.html](http://pep.wsu.edu/wrpm/WRPM_07.html)

### July

- ASHS Annual Conference, July 16–19, Scottsdale, AZ. [www.ashs.org/conferences.html](http://www.ashs.org/conferences.html)
- International Society of Arboriculture, July 28–Aug. 1, Honolulu, HI. <http://www.isa-arbor.com/conference/default.aspx>

### September

- Convergence of Genomics and the Land Grant Mission: Emerging Trends in the Application of Genomics in Agricultural Research, Sept. 10–12, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. [www.entm.purdue.edu/conference](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/conference)

### October

- 2007 ASLA Annual Meeting & EXPO, Oct. 5–8, San Francisco, CA. [www.asla.org/nonmembers/meetings.html](http://www.asla.org/nonmembers/meetings.html)

For more information, see “Other News/Announcements” and “Funding Opportunities” on the WIPMC Web site.

## Center Scope

The Western IPM Center enhances communication between federal and state IPM programs in the western United States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii and the Pacific territories, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. It serves as an IPM information network, designed to quickly respond to information needs of the public and private sectors.

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