



# Commodity Liaison Committee Update 2024-25

Food Use Workshop, Milwaukee, WI, September 10, 2024

Pest Management Solutions for Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses

# CLC Update



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# CLC Update

- **IR-4 is Still 60!**
- **What is CLC?**
- **Who are they?**
- **What activities are they doing?**

# CLC Update

- Created 1963



# IR-4 is 60 years old!



- **1965**

- One Director and Secretary

- **2023**

- Headquarters and 4 Regions
- Partnerships including ARS, Land Grant Universities, Registrants, Regulators and Producers
- Reputation is International and National

# IR-4 is 60 years old!



- Aerial Application 1960's



- Precision applications 2023

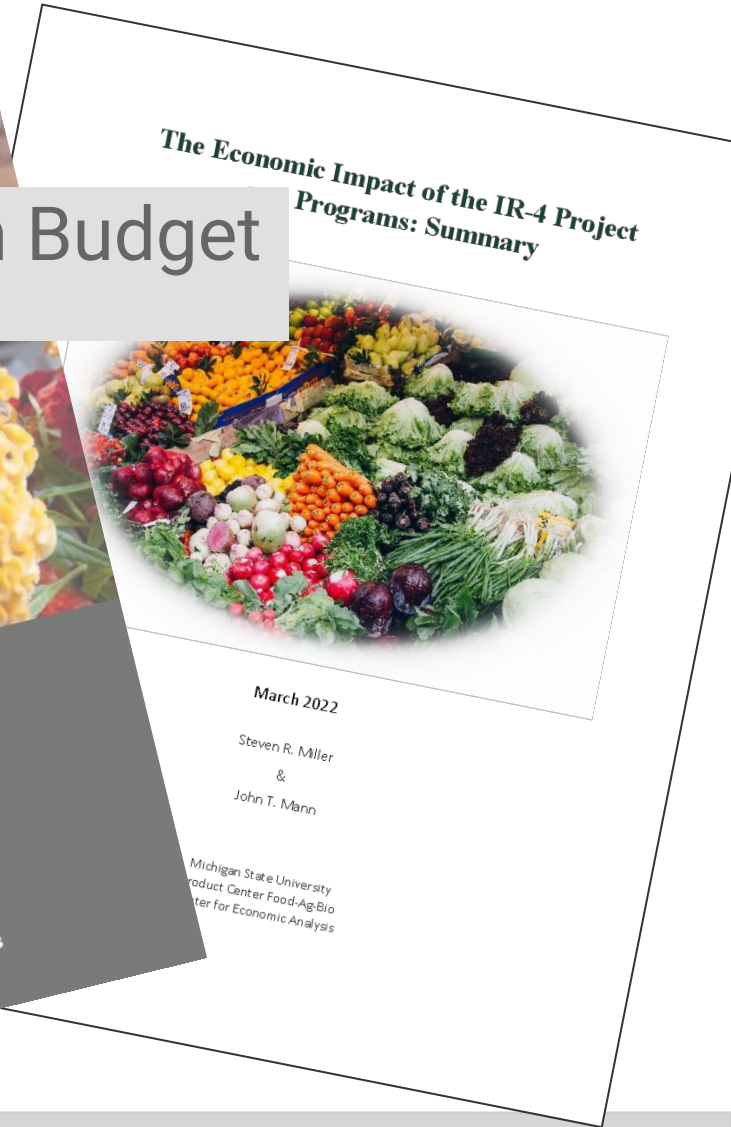


# IR-4 is 60 years old

- \$25,000 Budget



- \$15.0 Million Budget



# One thing has not changed

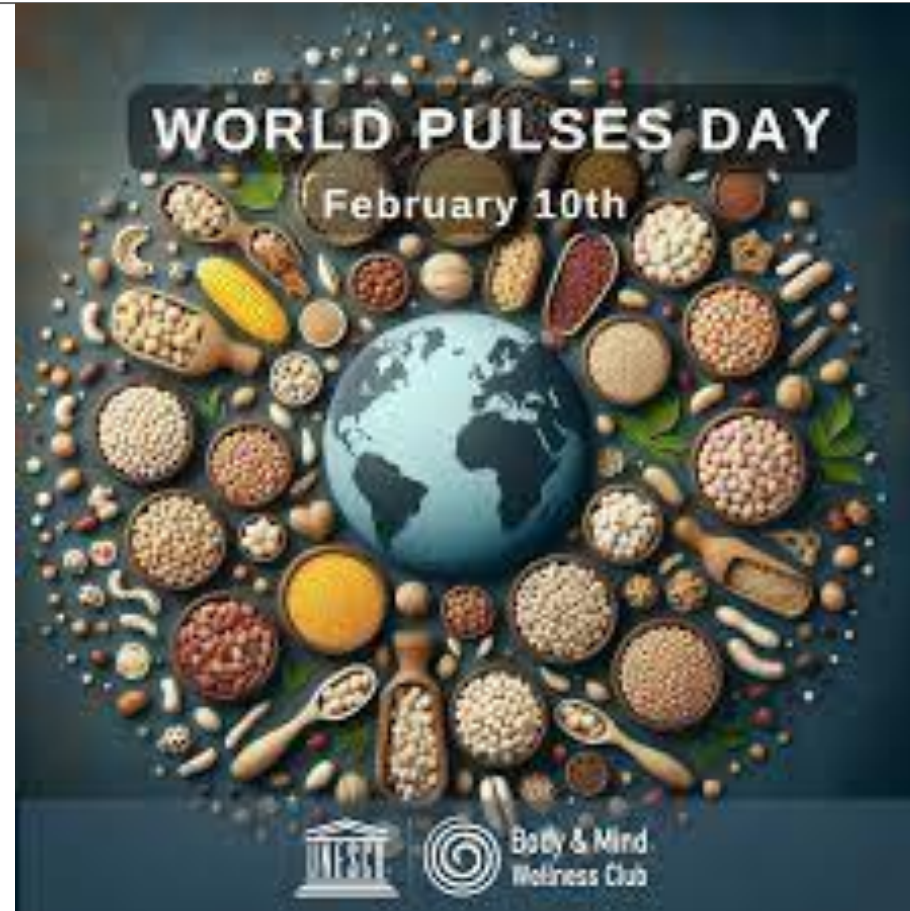
- **Mission:**

To facilitate regulatory approval of sustainable pest management technology for specialty crops and specialty uses to promote public well-being.



# International Year of Pulses-2016

- Keep the Celebration Going!



# What is Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC)?

## Purpose: CLC Charter

- The CLC is the **link between IR-4 and those who grow specialty food and ornamental commodities** or their representatives.
- Therefore, the primary purpose of the CLC is to **provide guidance and advice to the IR-4 Project** Management Committee in ways in which the program can best serve the needs of producers of specialty crops.
- The CLC serves an important role in **communicating the mission of the IR-4 Project to the agricultural community and provides visibility at the grower level.**
- The CLC also **supports federal funding initiatives** for the IR-4 Program and advocates for funding to maintain viable food and ornamentals research and registration programs.



# What is Commodity Liaison Committee?



- *33 Members*
- *Representing all 50 States.*
- *Representing specialty crops and horticulture.*

# What is CLC?

- 33 Members
- Members include Exec Directors, Scientific and Crop Protection Specialists, Market Directors, and Farmers
- Longest serving—joined in 2001, 23 years.
  - (Only about half as long as Jerry Baron)
- Located in 23 states
- Ultimately, they represent all 50 states

# What is CLC?



- *IR-4 sees stakeholders as equals.*
- *Not just an advisory committee.*
  - *Position on Board of Directors*
  - *Weekly communication*
  - *Involved in hiring and evaluations.*

# Who are Commodity Liaison Members?

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- **Larry Elworth**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Apple Commission
- **Jere Downing**, Executive Director, Cranberry Institute
- **Rocky Lundy**, Executive Director Mint Industry Research Council
- **Rich Bonano**, Owner, Pleasant Valley Gardens, MA (Present Director of Extension, NC State)
- **Michael Bledsoe**, VP Food Safety and Regulatory Affairs, Village Farms

# Who are Commodity Liaison Members?

- **Todd Scholz, USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council (Pulses), Chair**
- **Keith Pitts, Marrone Bio Innovations, Vice Chair**
- **Mike Aerts, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association**
- **Mark Arney, National Watermelon Promotion Board**
- **Chris Bardenhagen, Cherry Marketing Institute**
- **Pete Nelson, Cherry Marketing Institute**
- **Michael Bledsoe, Village Farms L.P.**
- **Jennifer Clarke, California Leafy Greens Research**
- **James Cranney, California Citrus Quality Council**
- **Alan DeYoung, Van Drunen Farms**
- **Maggie Eliot, Hops Growers of America, WA Hops Commission**
- **Bill Frantz, The Cranberry Institute**

# Who are Commodity Liaison Members?

- **Michelle Grainger**, NC SweetPotato Commission
- **Bob Jones**, The Chef's Garden
- **Bob Kaldunski**, Ginseng Board of Wi
- **Michael Martin**, Horticulture Research Institute
- **Armando Monterosso**, Brooks Tropicals, LLC
- **Kam Quarles**, National Potato Council
- **Amy Plato Roberts**, Lallemand Plant Care
- **Rachel Roberts**, American Mushroom Institute
- **Steve Salisbury**, Mint Institute Research Council
- **Jonathan Sarager**, Western Growers
- **Alan Schreiber**, Ag Development Group, Blueberry Commission
- **Berry Tanner**, National Watermelon Association
- **Amy Upton**, MI Nursery & Landscape Association



# Who are Commodity Liaison Members?

- Lee VanWychen, Weed Society of America
- **Herman Waguespack, Jr.**, American Sugar Cane League
- Ryan Wysocki, Michigan Blueberries
- John Walt Boatwright, American Farm Bureau
- Michelle Starke, CoverCress, Inc.

Tentative:

- **Laura Shumow**, American Spice Trade Assoc—To Be Approved.
- Crop Life America—To be approved
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture—To be Approved

# What activities are they doing?

- Tell the IR-4 Story
- Work on Government Education
- Government Affairs Sub-Committee
- Friends of IR-4

# Officer Elections

2022-2024		2024-2026	
Office	Name	Office	Name
Chair	Todd Scholz	Chair	
Vice Chair	Keith Pitts	Vice Chair	

# CLC Cycle of Events

CLC Meet w/ OMB (December)

President's Budget Announced (February)

IR-4 Jt PMC/CLC Meeting (March)

Friends of IR-4 Annual Mtg (March)

IR-4 Lunch/ Learn (March)

CLC Visits w/ House/Senate Approps (March)

CLC Hill Visits by CLC (March)

Appropriations Forms (April)

Additional Visits by CLC

Summer Visits/ Crop Tours in District (June-August)

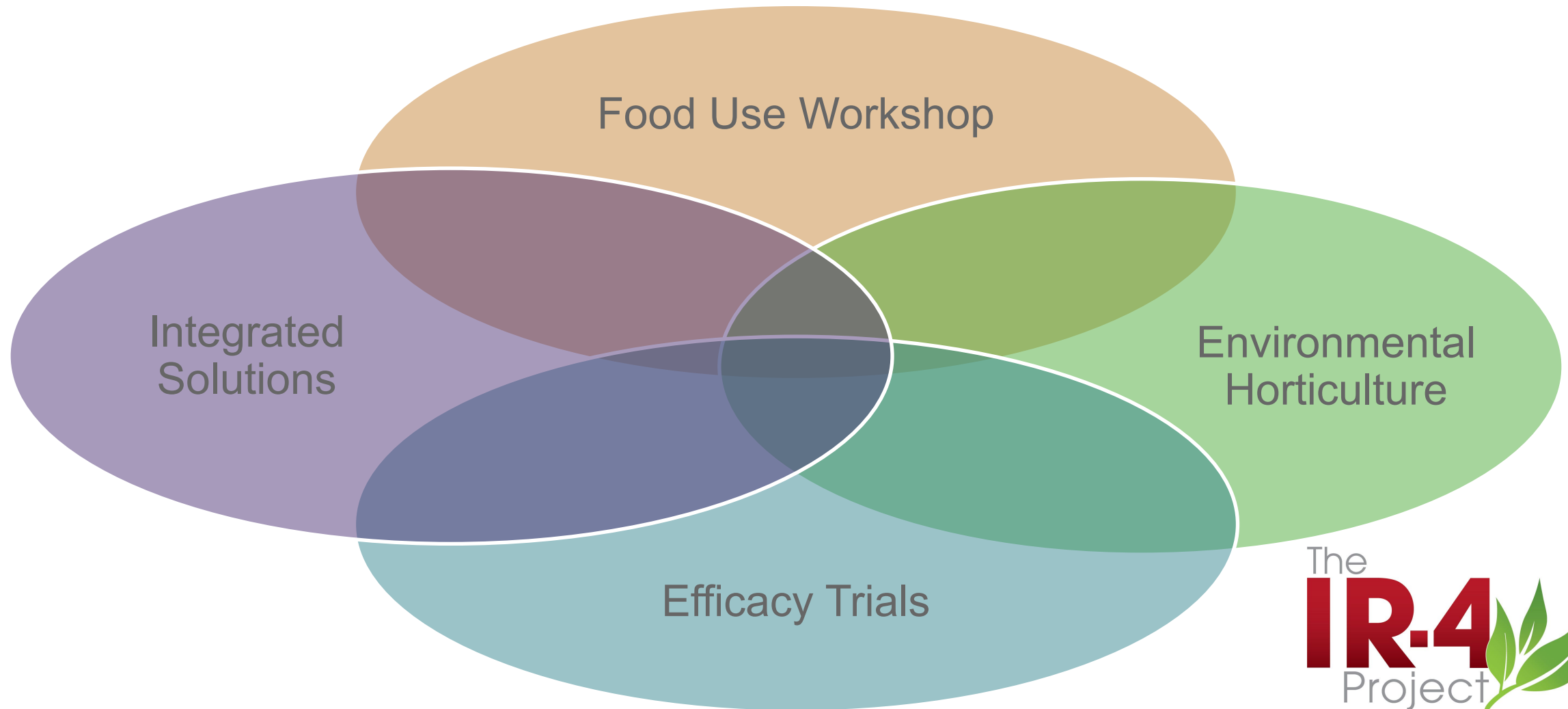
IR-4 Food Use Workshop (September)



Team Visits Ag Committee, 2024



# IR-4 Story



# IR-4 Story

- **History of Innovation and Leadership**
  - Crop Groups
  - International Harmonization
  - Minor Crop Foundation (Meeting last Feb)
  - Bio-Pesticides and Integrated Solutions
  - Solutions for Horticulture Pests and Diseases



# IR-4 Story

- **Economics**

- Specialty Crops—healthy foods and environments, sustainable, underfunded
- Contributes \$8.97 Billion to Annual GDP
- Specialty Crops Valued at \$65 Billion
- IR-4 supports 111,470 jobs, worth \$5.34 Billion



# IR-4 Story

- **Incentives to Registrants**
  - Waive registration fees
  - Develop residue data
  - Extend data protection
  - Reduced impact pesticides



# IR-4 Story

- **Challenges for Future**

- Funding for ARS Partner, Funding for NIFA Program
- ESA Considerations
- Effective Integrated Pest Management Solutions
- Looking for new solutions to old problems
- Appearance of new pests or new crops
- Sustainability/Climate Smart Ag



# CLC Government Education



# CLC Government Education

- **Annual Appropriations Process-(Completed Oct 1)**
  - Administration
    - Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
    - NIFA Leadership
    - ARS Leadership
  - Congress
    - House Ag Appropriations
    - House Ag Committee
    - Senate Ag Appropriations
    - Senate Ag Committee
    - Individual Members

# CLC Government Education

- **Farm Bill 2023(4) (Every 5 Years) (Maybe 6)**
  - House Ag Committee
  - Senate Ag Committee
  - Individual Members
  - Agencies
    - NIFA
    - ARS
  - Partners



# CLC Government Education

- **Tools**

- Meetings with Committee Staffs
- Zoom Meeting with OMB
- Direct meetings during March Fly-in
- Letters to Member
- Member Letters
- **Lunch and Learn**
- Members in District
- Allies—Minor Crop Farmer Alliance (MCFA), Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance, National Association of State Departments of Ag (NASDA)



Lunch and Learn Participants, March, 2023

# CLC Government Education

- **Status for 2024**

- Farm Bill

- Extended till December 31, Frameworks in Senate, Committee action in House
    - IR-4 has allies for \$50 Million, No version released yet.

- Appropriations 2024

- No changes, Surprise from ARS.

- Appropriations 2025

- House at \$15.75 Million, Senate at \$15.0 Million
    - ARS is unclear.



# CLC GASC

- **Government Affairs Sub-Committee (GASC)**
  - Jonathan Sarager, Chair
  - Meet every two months
  - Keeps the CLC Connected and working together
  - All CLC Members are invited



- **Friends of IR-4**

- DC Legislative and Regulatory Services (DCLRS)
- David Beaudreau
- Prepare tools for membership and education.
- Coordinate Legislative Meetings for members.
- Coordinate meetings with OMB, Ag Committees
- Work with Champions to generate letters
- Work to submit Appropriations requests





# CLC Action Story



- **ARS Funding –Eliminated “Umbrella Fund” (\$150,000 Cut)**
- **Gathered CLC –Approved letter to USDA ARS**
- **Received Response—Funded till June.**
- **Congressional Letter—led by Representative Panetta**
- **Developing a request for increased funding (\$2.0 Million)**



# CLC Update-Summary

- We have a good story—over 60 years of success!
- IR-4 is about healthy food, a healthy environment, and ***representing the needs of stakeholders.***
- Future challenges need future funding, and the ag sector supports those increases.
- CLC is energetic, passionate and the IR-4 is a great organization.



The  
**IR-4**  
Project 

#60YearsofIR4