

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF STATE LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES

The NRSP-4 Program (referred to as IR-4) is a cooperative partnership between the state land grant system and the USDA. Its major mission is to provide pest management solutions to growers of specialty crops throughout the nation, which also benefits the food industry and consumers.

State Liaison members representing each state and U.S. jurisdiction are appointed by their respective Directors for the State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) or the Director of the IR-4 Program for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). State Liaison representative's network with specific customers in their state or region including but not limited to growers, grower/commodity groups, processors, extension specialists/agents/advisors, agricultural consultants, Directors/Deans of SAES, public, etc. and should perform the following duties:

- Educate clientele about the IR-4 Program on its mission, objectives, benefits, and procedures. Provide to regional clientele accomplishments of the IR-4 Program such as current pesticide requests, registration submissions, performance data, and especially provide information on newly registered pest control uses. Clientele includes growers, commodity/grower groups, processors, extension specialists, consultants, SAES Directors/Deans, state and federal legislatures, the public, etc. Format for information dissemination should be at workshops, local, state or regional meetings, bulletins, articles, list servers, internet, etc.
- Work with clientele on pest control needs for their state or region. Identify problems, needs, and prioritize these with their clientele. Communicate these priorities to regional IR-4 staff. Submit or assist in pesticide clearance requests and obtain grower, commodity, university scientist and regional support for these requests. Announce meetings of the Food Use and Ornamental prioritization workshops to clientele and encourage attendance and input when appropriate.
- Maintain an open dialogue and network with regional staff, especially Field Research Coordinators, and other regional personnel including Field Study Directors and scientists working with food use, ornamentals and performance studies. Keep current on the progress of food, ornamental and performance trials within the region. Provide an information resource for headquarters IR-4 staff when necessary.
- Collaborate with Field Research Directors and/or perform food use trials when appropriate, and having the required GLP training and accreditation. Perform and/or collaborate with scientists on ornamental and performance trials within the region. Assist the Field Research Coordinator in obtaining data and reports from state scientist working on IR-4 projects for data mining.
- Attend local, state and regional professional meetings, and grower and commodity meetings to promote IR-4 activities and to keep current on pest management needs and new crop protection tools. Participate in regional and national IR-4 meetings, workshops and trainings.