KEEPING THE GOOD FOOD, GOOD

Role of the IR-4 Project in Preventing Pest Damage and Food Waste in Specialty Crops

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NCFAR IS a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension, and education.
ABSTRACT
Over the next generation global population is expected to grow rapidly and reach 10 billion people by the year 2050. This massive population growth is occurring while the land for food production is decreasing. This grand challenge will require increasing agriculture productivity while reducing food waste to ensure that there is adequate food by year 2050. The IR-4 Project continues to contribute to our national efforts by reducing food waste in the production of fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs and other specialty crops. Specifically, the IR-4 Project assists the specialty crop industries through the regulatory approval of safe and effective reduced risk pesticides, biopesticides and other modern crop protection technology. The IR-4 Project is needed because the crop protection industry focuses their research/development efforts in major crop markets that contribute adequate return on investment; leaving specialty crops often without adequate pest management solutions.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Jerry Baron, Ph.D., is Executive Director of the IR-4 Project. Baron is responsible for overall operations of the IR-4 Project including 25 research sites and a staff of 110 scientists. Baron served as President of the Northeastern Weed Science Society and was elected as Fellow in January, 2015. He authored Food and Feed Crops of the United States, four book chapters and hundreds of peer reviewed and popular publications. He currently serves on the editorial board of Outlooks of Pest Management and Board of the IPM Voice. Baron received his Doctorate from North Carolina State University. He earned his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from The Ohio State University with focus on pest management.
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