

**NORTHEAST  
REGION**



# 2023 Annual Report

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This report is compiled by the  
IR-4 Northeast Region Field Coordinator’s Office

# Sponsor Acknowledgements

Recognizing The IR-4 Project's primary sponsor:



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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Special thanks to our land grant universities for their partnership with IR-4:

UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND  
EASTERN SHORE



COLLEGE OF  
AGRICULTURE &  
NATURAL RESOURCES



The Personnel section outlines further involvement and contributions made by land grant institutions and cooperators.

# Program Summary

## 2023 Trials At-A-Glance

Food Use MOR Trials	2022	2023	2024
Trials Placed	29	31	26
Canceled Trials	6	3	0
Completed Trials	23	28	0
FDB's Received at RFC Office	23	24	0
Completed QC Reviews	23	11	0

Food Use Performance Trials	2022	2023	2024
# of Trials	10	20	17
Completed Trials	10	18	0
Reports Submitted	10	8	0

Env. Horticulture – Efficacy	2022	2023	2024
# of Protocols	6	4	5
Projects Placed	6	4	5
Canceled Projects	0	0	0
Reports Submitted	4	0	0

Env. Horticulture – Crop Safety	2022	2023	2024
# of Protocols	1	4	3
Trials Placed	21	31	19
Canceled Trials	0	0	0
Reports Submitted	21	12	0

Integrated Solutions Trials	2022	2023	2024
# of Trials	10	8	7
Completed Trials	10	7	0
Reports Submitted	10	6	0

# Overview of the Northeast Region

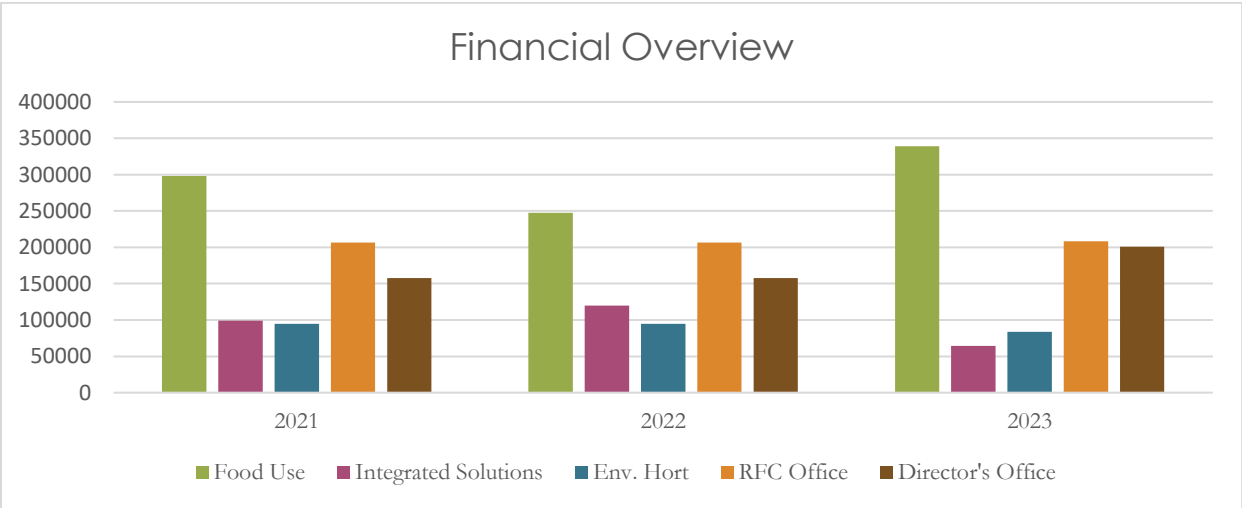
The Northeast Region of the IR-4 Project is a collaboration between the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP/UMD), University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), and North Carolina State University (NC State).

The Regional Field Coordinator’s (RFC) office is at the University of Maryland’s Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center (LESREC) in Salisbury, MD. The Regional Director’s office is located at UMES in Princess Anne, MD. The IR-4 Project Headquarters (HQ) is located at NC State in Raleigh, NC. Following is a summary of Northeast Region (NER) activities from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

## Budget

In 2023, Food Use allocated \$339,000, Environmental Horticulture allocated \$83,700 and Integrated Solutions allocated \$64,500 to field trials. The Regional Director’s office received \$200,940 to support the administration of the region. The RFC office received \$208,139 to support operations and outreach. All of these figures do not include indirect cost.

Depicted below is an overview of the Northeast Region's financial infrastructure and a comparison of funds specific to our region throughout the past three years.



## Update from the Regional Director's Office

The details of NER 2022-2024 sub-subaward contract processing are presented in the following table.

Activities	2022-2023(Year 2)	2023-2024(Year 3)	Number of SLRs
Subawards completed	22	25	11
Number of Subawards Signed	22	9	11
PR completed	20 (plus 2 for UMD)*	0	9 (plus 1 for UMD)*
PO processed	20 (plus 2 for UMD)*	0	8 (plus 1 for UMD)*
Invoices received	21	0	5
Checks issued	19	0	4
NCE Requested	6	0	4

\* The University of Maryland's budget has been transferred internally through our financial system. Purchase Requisitions (PR), Purchase Order (PO), No Cost Extension (NCE).

Six researchers requested a no-cost extension (NCE) for the 2022-2023 FY budget, and UMES approved the NCE requests. We started sending the Northeast Region SLRs travel budget and approved the NCE requested by some SLRs (See the table above). The 2023-2024 FY (Year 3) sub-subaward release is progressing well, and for those serving as FRDs and SLRs, we are processing the subaward and SLR travel budget together.

UMES received and signed USDA-ARS funding documents from NC State to implement and complete crop safety and efficacy Environmental Horticulture (EH) trials. We are in the process of establishing a new account number. Despite the delay, UMES ran two EH trials on crop safety, and we are writing the report. Moreover, UMES- School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences (SANS) is renovating a hoop house with a cooling and heating system dedicated to IR-4 crop safety and efficacy trials. The renovation is progressing well and is expected to be ready in spring.

UMES purchased and distributed residue bags and boxes to all regional offices, USDA-ARS, and Canada. Moreover, we have stocked our residue bags inventory at UMES in case any region needs urgent sample bags.

We represented the IR-4 Project at the UMES small farm conference, and Marylee Ross presented about the IR-4 Project activities and services to over 28 stakeholders who attended the IPM session.

Moreover, we had a booth to display some of the IR-4 flyers and brochures, and my students had a chance to learn about IR-4, and they were explaining about the IR-4 Project to the visitors.

The IR-4 NER team had several regular virtual meetings. Thanks to the hard-working colleagues Marylee, Megan, Jane, John, Josh (UMES research office), SLRs, and the researchers, things are progressing well in the NER.

Regards,

Simon Zebelo

### **Update from the Regional Field Coordinator's Office**

Wow! Another year has passed. And what a busy year it was. There were many changes to navigate and new technologies to learn. I'll briefly summarize our year in the Northeast.

In January, I was pleased to be invited to Tampa, Florida by the North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association. There I presented an overview of IR-4 and, tag teaming with Janine Spies, we offered information about new technologies in the pipeline.

In February, Megan and I attended The Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey, Pennsylvania. This is always a great venue to meet active and potential cooperators while learning what agricultural researchers have been working on.

Shortly after that we took off for Puerto Rico for the IR-4 National Education Conference. Megan Hickman is on the Education & Training Committee and put many hours into the planning of this incredible conference. We were introduced to the iAdvantage electronic field data book. It was an intense, introduction to the entire eBook and how to use it. This launched our attempts to be ready for implementing the use of this technology across all GLP trials in IR-4. We also learned many wonderful things on a tour of research plots at the beautiful University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez, Agricultural Experiment Station. Kudos to all involved!

At the end of March, at Jerry Baron's request, I helped Venkat Pedibhotla start planning our first in-person IR-4 EPA/USDA Educational tour since COVID. It was exciting to see the return of this very important event. In April it was announced that Venkat was leaving IR-4. Van Starner was

brought back into his previous role of EPA tour organizer. We continued with the plans that were in motion.

In May, I made several research site visits. Two new Field Research Directors, Wesley Bouchelle (NJ) and Keagan Handley (NY), had recently become part of our team. I was there for the QA Facility Audits and Field in Life Audits of their first applications. We had a few Field in Life Audits of our own at LESREC.

June 21<sup>st</sup> was EPA/USDA Tour day. We hosted a well-rounded tour including researchers in Delaware and Maryland as well as a farmer's market that grows and sells their own produce. We heard from the farmers what some of their challenges were. This was a tour to remember because on that day there was torrential rain and winds gusting to 40 miles per hour. The show went on though with lots of scrambling to keep participants relatively comfortable and dry. It is regrettable that many of the activities had to be replaced with indoor presentations. Nevertheless, plenty of educational material was offered to personnel of EPA and USDA.

In July we had a daylong meeting with University of Maryland Research Centers Director, Alan Leslie. Alan took on the role of Center Director for all but one of UMD's Research and Education Centers at the beginning of the year. He learned about IR-4 and our program, toured our IR-4 Research Center and gained an understanding and appreciation for IR-4. This was a day well spent!

At the end of July, we hosted our Northeast Region Priority Setting meetings. I am grateful to the biology leads who helped facilitate the meetings with their knowledge of requests and registrants' perspective in their respective disciplines.

It was good to see everyone at the Food Use Workshop in Raleigh, NC in September. The Northeast Region did well with achieving our top priorities.

October found us at the Environmental Horticulture Biennial Workshop in Little Rock, Arkansas. Again, we accomplished prioritizing some of the top concerns in our region. We also enjoyed a tour of local horticulture. A highlight of this meeting was presenting Dan Gilrein with the prestigious IR-4 SOAR Award. Dan is an Entomologist and Associate Ag Program Director for Cornell University at the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center in Riverhead, NY. SOAR stands for Service, Outreach, Altruism and Research. No one could be more qualified for this award.

Also, in October we attended the National Research Planning Meeting at IR-4 HQ. This was a good start to finding the right fit for all the trials that would need to be conducted in 2024. We have established research sites for all trials that will be conducted in 2024.

In November, I was invited by Simon Zebelo to speak at the UMES Small Farm Conference in Princess Anne, MD. I gave an overview of IR-4 and explained the opportunities available to growers and researchers. Working with Simon and his team at UMES has led to a cohesive and effective relationship between UMD and UMES. It is rewarding to be part of a positive and productive team.

November also gave me the delight of being able to deliver a Special Recognition Award to Dr. Kenneth Trammel, owner of ACDS Trucking in Phelps, NY. It meant a lot to me that IR-4 agreed Ken deserved this award for over 40 years of handling our frozen samples with utmost care. But, I believe it meant a great deal more to Ken. Much of his service is behind the scenes. The trucks arrive and go at many locations across the US and into Canada and we have come to accept and expect that. So much more is going on there! I got to meet the family that runs the business. It is truly a dedicated team. As an important bonus, the owners of Lange Research that have purchased ACDS were there. They saw firsthand how much the service means to IR-4 and how important we are to ACDS. The Lange family is committed to continuing the legacy of excellence. We had a wonderful time and some invaluable conversation.

December was a busy month wrapping up field trials and preparing for a much needed a winter break.

There were countless Zoom calls and emails. Throughout the year we organized numerous RFC meetings. We collaborated on how to handle regional meetings, daily interaction with stakeholders, and informing FRDs about the changes in the way GLP data will be handled in the upcoming year. We are trying to be ready, but recognize this will be a challenge.

It seems 2023 was brimming with activity and adjustment. We will bring forth our tenacity for 2024!

'Til next time,

marylee

## Notable Meetings

The RFC office participated in over 220 hours of virtual meetings throughout 2023. The list below represents some notable meetings that the RFC Office actively participated in and captures the highlights of in person and virtual meetings.

- Delaware Ag Week, January 9-11, 2023 in Harrington, DE
- NARBA (North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association) Convention, January 23-24, 2023 in Tampa, FL
- Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention (MAFVC), January 31- February 1, 2023 in Hershey, PA
- IR-4 National Education Conference (NEC), February 7-9, 2023 in San Juan, PR
- Preliminary Run of IR-4/EPA/USDA Crop Tour with Venkat Pedibhotla, February 23, 2023 on Eastern Shore, MD
- IR-4 Town Hall Meeting, March 15, 2023 via Zoom
- IR-4 Research Symposium, April 11, 2023 via Zoom
- IR-4 NER Annual Meeting, April 12, 2023 via Zoom
- IPM Guest Lecture at Delaware Valley University, April 14, 2023 in Doylestown, PA
- Visit with Clayton Farms for IR-4/EPA/USDA Crop Tour Planning, April 18, 2023 in Denton, MD
- Wesley Bouchelle Facility Audit, May 3, 2023 in Chatsworth, NJ
- Visit to Lange Research for Application Audit, May 16-18, 2023 in North Rose, NY
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Preliminary Run of IR-4/EPA/USDA Crop Tour, May 25, 2023 on Eastern Shore, MD
- A Look at Delmarva Agriculture IR-4/EPA/USDA Crop Tour, June 21, 2023 hosted at LESREC in Salisbury, MD
- Meeting with UMD Center Director (Alan Leslie), July 11, 2023 at LESREC in Salisbury, MD
- IR-4 Town Hall Meeting, July 19, 2023 via Zoom
- IR-4 Industry Technology Session, July 20, 2023 via Zoom
- IR-4 NER Entomology Priority Setting Meeting, July 25, 2023 via Zoom
- IR-4 NER Pathology Priority Setting Meeting, July 26, 2023 via Zoom
- IR-4 NER Weed Science Priority Setting Meeting, August 1, 2023 via Zoom
- IR-4 HQ/RFC Meeting, August 17, 2023 via Zoom
- IR-4 Food Use Workshop, September 11-14, 2023 in Raleigh, NC
- IR-4 Environmental Horticulture Workshop and Tour, October 9-12, 2023 in Little Rock, AR
- IR-4 National Research Planning Meeting (NRPM), October 25-27, 2023 in Raleigh, NC
- IR-4 Town Hall Meeting, November 1, 2023 via Zoom

- Introduction to IR-4 Talk at UMES Small Farm Conference, November 4, 2023 in Princess Anne, MD
- Presentation of IR-4 Special Recognition Award to Ken Trammell at ACDS Trucking, November 13, 2023 in Phelps, NY
- Mid-Atlantic Crop School, November 14-16, 2023 in Ocean City, MD

# Program Report

## Food Use Program

### *Magnitude of the Residue*

In 2023, thirty-one magnitude of residue (MOR) trials were conducted in the Northeast Region. Of the Food Use funding in the Northeast Region, \$210,000 went to residue work. Activities involved 18 chemical/crop combinations.

MOR field trials were conducted in four locations, including:

- Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center, Salisbury, MD (University of Maryland)
- Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm, Pittstown, NJ (Rutgers University)
- Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry & Cranberry Research, Chatsworth, NJ (Rutgers University)
- Lange Research and Consulting Inc. (North Rose Facility) North Rose, NY (Contract Research Facility)

Overall, three trials were cancelled. Two of which were cancelled on behalf of the registrant for undisclosed reasons. The other cancellation was for Mefenoxam/Lettuce in the spring but it was completed in the fall under a new trial number.

Samples from twenty-eight completed trials have been shipped. Twenty-four Field Data Books (FDBs) have been received at the RFC office. Eleven Quality Control (QC) reviews have been completed and the FDBs sent to Quality Assurance (QA).

### *Quality Assurance (QA)*

During the period of this report, Jane Forder conducted a total of 32 field in-life inspections, 15 in the Northeast and 14 in the North Central Regions and 3 in Texas. She performed 19 audits of field data books and 12 final report audits. She audited 2 contributing scientist reports. She performed a second review on 13 final reports and conducted 19 closing report checks. She conducted 1 facility inspection in the New Jersey. She worked with the TNRC (Michigan State University) FRD intensively on critical SOPs.

## ***Performance***

In 2023, twenty performance trials were conducted in the Northeast Region. Of the Food Use funding in the Northeast Region, \$129,000 went to performance work. The Efficacy and Crop Safety trials were conducted at six locations.

Efficacy and Crop Safety trials were conducted at:

- Carvel Research and Education Center, Georgetown, DE (University of Delaware)
- The New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, NY (Cornell University)
- Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry & Cranberry Research, Chatsworth, NJ (Rutgers University)
- Lange Research and Consulting, Inc., (North Rose Facility) North Rose, NY (Contract Research Facility)
- Kingman Research Farm, Madbury, NH (University of New Hampshire)
- Agronomy Research, Education and Outreach Center, Morgantown, WV (West Virginia University)
- Rutgers Agricultural Research and Education Center, Bridgeton, NJ (Rutgers University)
- Wye Research and Education Center, Wye Mills, MD (University of Maryland)
- UVM Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program, St. Albans, VT (University of Vermont)
- Long Island Horticultural Research Lab, Riverhead, NY (Cornell University)
- Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center, University Park, PA (Pennsylvania State University)

Eighteen of the trials are complete and eight reports have been submitted.

## **Environmental Horticulture**

In 2023, the Environmental Horticulture program funded \$83,700 of research in the Northeast Region. There were four efficacy protocols and four crop safety protocols. Under these protocols, we placed four efficacy projects and thirty-one crop safety trials. This work was done by four different researchers at three locations.

The four efficacy projects were conducted at:

- Long Island Horticultural Research Lab, Riverhead, NY (Cornell University)

The thirty-one crop safety trials were conducted at:

- Long Island Horticultural Research Lab, Riverhead, NY (Cornell University)

- University of Maryland College Park, College Park, MD (University of Maryland)
- Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT (University of Connecticut)

There are four outstanding reports for the efficacy projects and 19 outstanding reports among the crop safety trials.

## **Integrated Solutions**

In 2023, the Integrated Solutions program funded \$64,500 of research with eight trials placed in the Northeast Region.

The trials are being conducted at six locations, including:

- The New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, NY (Cornell University)
- Carvel Research & Education Center, Georgetown, DE (University of Delaware)
- Rutgers Agriculture Research and Education Center, Bridgeton, NJ (Rutgers University)
- Long Island Horticultural Research Lab, Riverhead, NY (Cornell University)
- Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry & Cranberry Research, Chatsworth, NJ (Rutgers University)
- University of Maryland Research and Education Centers, College Park, MD (University of Maryland)

Seven trials were completed and six reports have been submitted.

# Personnel

## Administration

	Title	Location	Email
<b>Simon Zebelo</b>	Regional Director	University of Maryland Eastern Shore	sazebelo@umes.edu
<b>Marylee Ross</b>	Regional Field Coordinator	University of Maryland	mross@umd.edu
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<b>Jane Forder</b>	Regional Quality Assurance	North Carolina State University	jforder@ncsu.edu
<b>Megan James Hickman</b>	Assistant Regional Field Coordinator	University of Maryland	mjames14@umd.edu

## Field Personnel by State

Connecticut	Title	Location	Email	Area of Involvement
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DELAWARE	Title	Location	Email	Area of Involvement
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MARYLAND	Title	Location	Email	Area of Involvement
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<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>	Title	Location	Email	Area of Involvement
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<b>NEW JERSEY</b>	Title	Location	Email	Area of Involvement
<b>Thierry Besancon</b>	FRD & SLR	Rutgers – Marucci	thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu	Food Use & Integrated Solutions
<b>Wesley Bouchelle</b>	FRD	Rutgers – Marucci	wmb59@njaes.rutgers.edu	Food Use
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### State Liaison Representatives (SLRs)

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