EARLY RELEASE OF 2003 TRI DATA

EPA today for the first time is releasing facility information about toxic chemical releases as reported to the agency. In the past, this data was received, quality-checked, analyzed and released in the annual Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) report that resulted from the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986. The TRI program requires industrial facilities to publicly report quantities of toxic chemicals annually released into the air, water and land. TRI is an important tool that gives Americans public information on chemical releases for their community, so that they can make informed decisions about protecting their environment. The United States is an innovator in providing this level of openness in chemical reporting, and other nations are using TRI as a model. Many stakeholders have requested that the agency share TRI data sooner and in the basic format received, without waiting for further analysis. In response to these stakeholder concerns, EPA today is launching the first annual electronic release of facility-level TRI data, the Electronic-Facility Data Release (e-FDR). The data is presented for each facility received by EPA, one reporting form for each chemical. Increased electronic reporting allowed EPA to publish the earlier e-FDR, and is part of EPA's initiative to modernize and streamline the TRI program. Electronic reporting also supports data accuracy with built-in quality checks, and makes reporting easier for industry. The eFDR provides facility-by-facility reporting for reporting year 2003. The traditional Public Data Release, which includes more quality checks, national trends and analysis, is expected in Spring 2005. The e-FDR is now available at: http://www.epa.gov/tri-efdr
Contact: Suzanne Ackerman 202-564-7819 / ackerman.suzanne@epa.gov

GOOGLE LAUNCHES SERVICE FOR ACADEMICS

Google launched a service directed at academics and scientists looking for scholarly material. Google Scholar is the product of cooperation between Google and a number of academic publishers including the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Online Computer Library Center. The service provides access to peer-reviewed papers, books, and technical reports, as well as information about locating scholarly work that is available at libraries but not online. Google's Anurag Acharya, who directed development of the new service, noted that the company benefited from and grew out of an academic environment and said that Google Scholar "is one of the ways we can give back to the community." Acharya said the service would give universal access to academic and scientific literature from around the world. Take Google scholar out for a run on your favorite science topic.
http://www.scholar.google.com/
(New York Times, 18 November 2004)
Funding Opportunity

Request for Applications under the Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM CRSP)

The Management Entity of the USAID funded Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM CRSP) at Virginia Tech invites proposals for (a) Proposal Preparation Grants (PPGs) to design Regional IPM and Global theme IPM Research Programs and (b) proposals for full regional and global theme programs. This call for proposals is open to all U.S. institutions acceptable to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) (Land Grant Universities), regardless of prior participation in the IPM CRSP. We are encouraging the lead institutions (Land Grant US Universities) that submit proposals to partner with other stakeholders (e.g. other universities, NGOs, private institutions, government agencies, national programs etc. in the US and in host countries). If your institution does not meet the USAID requirements for a lead institution and you would like to become a partner in the proposal of a lead institution, please call 540-231-3516. Check the IPM CRSP website:

http://www.ag.vt.edu/ipmcrsp/index.asp

(Dec. 2004, E. A. "Short" Heinrichs, Director, IPM CRSP, 2270 Litton Reaves Hall Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0334) Phone: 540-231-3516  
Fax: 540-231-3519

Chemical News

- EPA Approves Another Pesticide For Use Against Soybean Rust.

On November 30, 2004, EPA registered the fungicide pyraclostrobin for use against soybean rust an aggressive and harmful plant disease in Soybeans bringing to 11 the number of pesticides that are available for use against this pest. Since its first announcement on November 10, 2004, the U.S. Department of Agriculture?s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has confirmed that soybean rust has been discovered in Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, and Tennessee. EPA, along with USDA and state departments of agriculture, has been proactive in making sure that growers have the tools they need to help respond to this pathogen. This new registration adds to the arsenal and also ensures diversity in the products that are effective against soybean rust, reducing the possibility of demand exceeding supply during upcoming growing seasons. For a complete list of pesticides that are available for this disease please visit http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb_page/updates/soybean_rust.htm.

For more information on soybean rust, please visit the U.S. Department of Agricultures, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/sbr/sbr.html

(EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, 12/03/04 http://www.epa.gov/pesticides)
West Virginia ranked 14th in peach production in the nation's agriculture in the past five years

- Peach production in West Virginia has averaged over 14 million pounds (296,000 bushels), with an average value of $4.1 million.
- Ninety-nine percent of the peach trees in West Virginia are located in the four eastern counties of Berkeley, Hampshire, Jefferson and Morgan.
- The top five varieties were Loring, Redhaven, Blake, Redskin and Cresthaven, representing 67% of the total number of trees. These same varieties continue to be planted today, along with newer varieties such as Glohaven, Bellaire, Bounty and Earlibrite.

Jan. 19, 2005
Blitz Training Program (Categories: 8B, 11, and 12). Charleston House Holiday Inn, Charleston, WV. Further information can be found at: http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/temp/05Blitz.pdf

Jan. 20, 2005
Blitz Training Program (Categories: 8B, 11, and 12). Ramada Inn, Morgantown, WV. Further information can be found at: http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/temp/05Blitz.pdf

March 15-16, 2005
Northeast Regional Community and Urban IPM Conference. Radisson Hotel- Manchester, New Hampshire. Further information can be found at: http://northeastipm.org/conference2005_index.cfm