

2005-2006 Annual Report Synopsis

The Crop Protection Research Institute (CPRI) is a non-advocacy research unit of the CropLife Foundation. Established in January 2004, CPRI focuses on the economic analysis of agricultural pests, pest management, and pesticide use and regulation in the United States. CPRI's goal is to inform the public discussion surrounding pest management policy, employing written reports, presentations, panel discussions, and web-based media to reach as broad an audience as possible. CPRI's work in 2005-2006 focused around six major areas: the National Pesticide Use Database, pesticide use data collection and analysis, domestic pesticide benefits quantification, international pesticide benefits, exotic plant pathogens, and outreach.



CPRI Director Leonard Gianessi discusses fungicide benefits at a congressional briefing, August 2005.

National Pesticide Use Database With financial support from three federal agencies (EPA, USDA, USGS), CPRI staff completed the National Pesticide Use Database for 2002. Herbicide and fungicide data were released in February 2006; fumigant, insecticide and plant growth regulator estimates were released in May 2006. This CPRI database remains as the only publicly-available comprehensive pesticide use database covering U.S. crop production. CPRI is currently conducting a feasibility study regarding future updates to the database.

Domestic Pesticide Benefits Quantification CropLife America has provided funds to CPRI to conduct a series of studies that document the benefits of using pesticides. In November 2005, CPRI released a comprehensive study that estimated the benefits of using fungicides in the production of fifty crops in the U.S. The study included a definitive literature review of fungicide use for 231 key crop diseases in the U.S. In June 2006 CPRI completed an update of the national herbicide benefit study. CPRI staff are currently finishing benefits reports on fumigants, growth regulators, and insecticides

International Pesticide Benefits As part of a CropLife International funded project, CPRI staff are assembling a library of reports and articles documenting the benefits of pesticides worldwide. From the library constructed by CPRI, CLI will assemble a web-based reference system to publicize information on the benefits of pesticide use.

Pesticide Use Data Collection and Analysis CPRI staff were asked by USDA to co-chair a subcommittee to advise the Department on future options for collecting pesticide use statistics. CPRI staff were also asked by CLA to organize an industry subcommittee to address the same issue. After a series of meetings, both subcommittees completed their work in 2006. CPRI staff made a presentation to a USDA Advisory Committee in February 2006, summarizing the conclusions of the subcommittees. (The statement can be found on CPRI's website.)

Exotic Plant Pathogens With funding from USDA, CPRI is conducting a study to identify potential chemical controls for exotic plant pathogens that have economically impacted agricultural production in other countries and have potential to establish themselves in the U.S. CPRI's efforts on behalf of USDA are part of the National Plant Disease Recovery System mandated by the Office of Homeland Security.

Outreach

General support funds from CropLife America member companies enabled CPRI staff to conduct an active outreach program, including forty presentations delivered to diverse audiences over the last two years. *Spore Wars*, an overview of the benefits of fungicides, was CPRI's primary talk for the past year. CPRI staff recently began presenting a talk about the benefits of herbicides, *War of the Weeds*.

Leonard Gianessi made the following presentations in 2005 and 2006:

Spore Wars

- **DuPont Crop Protection, Stine Haskell Research Center**, Newark, DE, 7/26/2005
- **U.S. House Staff**, Washington, DC, 8/8/2005
- **U.S. Senate Staff**, Washington, DC, 8/10/2005
- **EPA Headquarters Staff, Office of Pesticide Programs**, Arlington, VA, 8/23/2005
- **CropLife International**, Brussels, Belgium, 9/1/2005
- **CropLife America Annual Meeting**, Orlando, FL, 9/27/2005
- **SCPA Annual Meeting**, Orlando, FL, 11/8/2005
- **National Onion Association**, Scottsdale, AZ, 11/24/2005
- **Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association**, Peoria, IL, 1/24/2006
- **Mint Industry Research Council**, Las Vegas, NV, 1/25/2006
- **Emory University, Biology Department**, Atlanta, GA, 1/31/2006
- **Guilford College, Chemistry Department**, Greensboro, NC, 2/21/2006
- **Syngenta**, Greensboro, NC, 2/21/2006
- **University of Delaware, Department of Plant and Soil Science**, Newark, DE, 3/24/06
- **American University, Chemistry Department**, Washington, DC, 4/24/06
- **Cerexagri**, King of Prussia, PA, 4/25/06

Other Presentations

- "The Value of Herbicides and Fungicides in U.S. Crop Production" **Cropsolution Annual Meeting**, Wrightsville Beach, NC, 10/13/2005
- "The Benefits of Pesticides in U.S. Crop Protection" **AMVAC Annual Meeting**, Long Beach, CA, 12/1/2005
- "The Benefits of Pesticide Use in Georgia Crop Production" **Georgia Agribusiness Council**, Atlanta, GA, 2/1/2006
- "War of the Weeds" **National Science Teachers Association**, Anaheim, CA, 4/6/06

Nathan Reigner made the following presentations in 2005 and 2006:

- "Communicating the Benefits of Herbicides and Fungicides in U.S. Crop Production" **SCPA State Issues Summit**, Richmond, VA, 10/18/2005
- "The Value of Pesticides to Florida Agriculture" **Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association**, Tampa, FL, 1/13/2006
- "The Benefits of Pesticide Use to Crop Production in EPA Region 4" **EPA Region 4 Headquarters**, Atlanta, GA, 2/1/2006
- "Spore Wars" **National Science Teachers Association**, Anaheim, CA, 4/8/06



Leonard Gianessi presenting *Spore Wars* at EPA, August 2005 (above) and at Emory University, January 2006 (below).



Nathan Reigner describing pesticide benefits at EPA's Region 4 offices, February 2006.

National Science Teachers Association Annual Meeting April 2006

CPRI staff maintained an exhibitor booth at the NSTA annual meeting in Anaheim, California and personally spoke with over 2,000 science teachers who stopped at the booth and picked up educational materials outlining the benefits of pesticide use in U.S. agriculture. These materials included lesson plans, DVDs, PowerPoint slide shows, posters, pamphlets and reports.

Website

CropLife Foundation's website, www.croplifefoundation.org, serves as the primary vehicle through which the Crop Protection Research Institute communicates its work.



Nathan Reigner explaining benefits of pesticides to science teachers at CPRI exhibitor booth.

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CPRI

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Archives

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- Digital Image Library

New This Year

The only publicly-available national comprehensive pesticide use database for the U.S. is maintained on CPRI's website. The system allows users to download data by crop, state, active ingredient and year (1992, 1997, 2002). The complete texts of the fungicide and herbicide benefit studies are posted on the website. CPRI has posted a 1999 report written by Leonard Gianessi in which the economic effects of 31 pesticide cancellations were analyzed. This report was cited as a major source of information in a 2005 report from OMB.

Key Links

CPRI staff was asked to prepare an article on the benefits of fungicides which is available at the Education Center website maintained by the American Phytopathological Society, www.apsnet.org

A DVD of the presentation of *Spore Wars* by Leonard Gianessi is listed as a resource for teachers at the USDA website for Ag in the Classroom, www.agclassroom.org.

Crop Protection Research Institute Funders

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United States Environmental Protection Agency
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Leonard Gianessi, *Director*
Nathan Reigner, *Research Associate*
Bertina Šu, *Research Assistant*

CropLife Foundation
1156 15th Street NW, Suite 400
Washington DC, 20005

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