

# Commodity Liaison Committee

*Michael Bledsoe, PhD, Chair CLC, Village Farms International*



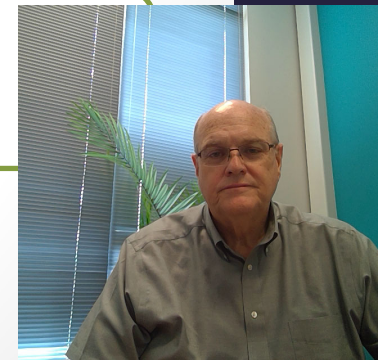
- What is the CLC, any why IR-4 is so important?



- Leadership and Membership 2020

- Governmental Affairs Subcommittee of the CLC

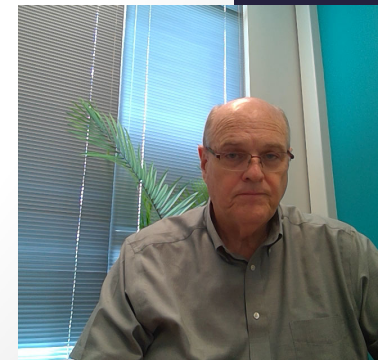
- Support and Involvement in the CLC



# Why is IR-4 so important?

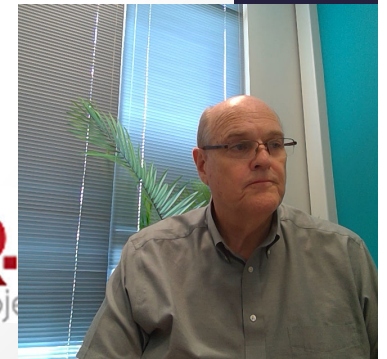


- 40+ % of your daily consumption comes from minor/specialty crops.
- Basic Pesticide producers spend millions of dollars on developing new products for agriculture.
- As a business they target the larger area crops.
  - Corn, soybean, cotton, wheat, etc.
  - Minor crops, like tomato, cucumber, peppers, , melons, pulse, sugarcane, ginseng, and over 500 other crops.
- NIFA-USDA funded IR-4 partnering with EPA assists the development and incentivizes producers to support these industries by waving registration fees, developing required residue and efficacy data, and extended protection of the data used to support registrations for the entire pesticide.



# Commodity Liaison Committee

- Representative Growers, Organizations, Commodities, etc.
- Create Visibility
- Educate
- Advocate
- Mentor
- GOAL:
  - To Ensure Sustainable Funding for IR-4
  - Mentor crops and crop advocates
  - Participate in the IR-4 management
    - Chair sits on the IR-4 PMC (~Board of Directors)
    - Involved in hiring interviews
- IR-4 Consensus Management
  - Better decisions
  - Make sure stakeholders are making the decisions, especially on what projects are most important to US growers



# CLC Leadership - 2020

- **Mike Bledsoe (Village Farms- NA Greenhouse Vegetable) – Chair**
- **Todd Scholz (US Dry Pea and Lentil) - Vice Chair**
- **Strategy and Transparent Communication**
- **Visibility and Active Participation**
- **Annual Meeting in DC**
  - Group and individual Hill visits
- **Regular Communications**
  - Weekly calls between chair and Executive Director IR-4 (Jerry Baron)
  - Quarterly Conference call by our Subcommittee chair – Bob Simerly.



# CLC Member list

- Alan DeYoung: Van Drunen **Farms**
- Keith Pitts: **Biopesticide Industry Alliance**
- Steven Salisbury: **Mint** Industry Research Council
- Allison Crittenden: **American Farm Bureau**
- OPEN: Society of American **Florists**
- Herman Waguespack: LA **Sugarcane** League
- Amy Upton: MI **Nursery** Growers Association
- Bob Simerly: National **Onion**
- Bob Jones: the Chef's Garden
- Zack Ghorski: **NASDA** (Nat. Assoc. of State Depts. Of Agriculture)
- Open: American Hort
- Ann George: US **Hops**
- Kam Quales: National **Potato** Council



# CLC Member list -Continued

- Open: **Cherry** Marketing Institute
- Armando Monterraso: Brooks **Tropicals**
- Dennis Nuxoll: Western Growers
- Amy Gandi: Kemin Industries
- Mark Arney: National **Watermelon** Board
- James Cranney: California Citrus Institute
- William Frantz: **Cranberry** Institute
- Rachel Roberts: American **Mushroom** Institute
- Todd Scholz: USA **Dry Pea and Lentil (Pulse)**
- Alan Schreiber: Agricultural Development Group
- OPEN: US **Apple**
- Michael Aerts: **FFVA** (Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association)



# CLC Member list -Continued

- Bob Kalendaski: WI **Ginseng**
- Michael Bledsoe: **Village Farms** International
- OPEN: CropLife America
- Dave Trinka: MBG Marketing (**Blueberry**)
- Berry Tanner: National Watermelon Board
- Jennifer Clarke: California **Leafy Greens**



# IR-4 and its Stakeholders

## More than an advisor Team

The IR-4 Program is an example of how government, and NGOs can work closely with their stakeholders to assure the goals and programs stay current and meet stakeholder objectives.

- IR-4 sees Stakeholders as equal partners.
- Seek Inputs in planning.
- Gives equal voice at PMC (IR-4 Board).
- Even seeks advice with new hires and positions.
- Not just an advisory committee.
  - A key part of IR-4, and what IR-4 believes in.
- Weekly communications.





# CLC On the Hill Lunch and Learn



# CLC group meeting on the Hill



# Successes

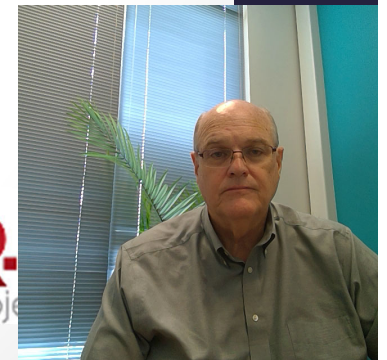
- The IR-4 budget has been flat since 2009 @ ~\$12M
- Success:
  - Hill budget proposed raising it to \$15M
  - Presidents budget Proposed it at \$19M.
  - Key congressional members know how critical IR-4 program is to agriculture..
- While we have these first ever proposed increases, with a stalemated congress, we may continue to have to settle for a continuing resolution, resulting in budgets staying at current levels;
  - meaning that there may be no increases in current IR-4 budget.





# Government Action Subcommittee (GASc)

- Chaired by Bob Simerly (Chair)
- Create Awareness, Synergy, Strategy and Messaging
- Regular Conference Calls – Updates and Calls to Action
- Training in March 2017 – Farm Bill 101 Webinar
- Training on How to prepare for a Hill visit.
- “Tactical Sciences” Approach – Options for Farm Bill Funding
- Resources and Updated Materials
- Action Plan for 2020 and Beyond...



# How You Can Help...

- Engage Your Membership
- Participate in CLC Activities
- Inform Your Representatives in DC and Locally
- Assist With DC-Based Educational Efforts
- Facilitate Networking and Outreach With Key Groups and Individuals
- Consider Joining the CLC
  - New members are nominated and voted on by CLC members.



# Chair of CLC

- Weekly call with Jerry Baron (Executive Director, IR-4)
- Voting member of the IR-4 PMC
- Attends all PMC meetings
- Coordinating congressional letters and proposals
- Communicate to CLC on ongoing issues
- Time spent on promoting IR-4 promotes all minor/specialty crops.
- Mentoring commodity groups on FUW
  - How to best approach the FUW.
  - Regional workshops
  - Getting organized



# QUESTIONS?

