IPM Achievement Awards

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has given out more than 100 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) awards to honor California organizations that emphasize pest prevention, favor least-hazardous pest management, and share their successful strategies with others. The IPM Achievement Awards, which were previously known as the IPM Innovator Awards, now recognize a wider range of IPM achievements in innovation, leadership, and education and outreach. The awards provide rare public recognition to groups and individuals who are quietly revolutionizing pest management through their efforts to reduce risks associated with pesticide use.

IPM–integrated pest management–works with nature to encourage beneficial plants and animals while making it difficult for pests to survive.

DPR’s IPM Achievement Awards are part of a comprehensive, reduced-risk pest management strategy aimed at homes, schools, farms, and the environment.

Demonstrating Leadership

In 1994, DPR presented its first IPM awards to acknowledge agricultural and urban organizations demonstrating leadership and creativity in new methods of pest management. DPR hosts an annual event where the award recipients are recognized.

DPR developed the program to recognize pioneering pest control managers for their leadership in voluntarily implementing reduced-risk pest management systems and for their work in sharing those solutions with others.

IPM Achievement Award recipient typically has a history of using pest management systems to reduce the risks posed by the use of traditional control practices, showing that their pest management concept is economically viable, and documenting and sharing that system so others can learn and apply the information to their situation.

Relying on a Systems Approach

IPM Achievement Award recipients rely on pest management systems based on sound scientific principles of IPM, including a preference for using cultural practices and beneficial organisms for pest control when feasible. Pest problems are addressed as part of the overall situation, rather than pest by pest or at only one time of the year.

Award recipients often conduct research to find new ways for managing pests. This may include a range of activities from contracted research with academic institutions to on-site trials of participant-identified techniques.

The organizational structure of the IPM Achievement Award recipient may be very formal, such as a commodity advisory board, a resource conservation district, or a school district, or it may be less formal, such as a community organization that promotes reduced-risk pest management. Many successful award recipients also have representatives from federal, state, or...
local government, academia, and the business community as advisors to or as members of their organization.

In addition, many IPM Achievement Award recipients have a well-developed organization and an educational component responsible for coordinating and working with participants to encourage the sharing of ideas and information. Many award recipients provide training and educational programs for participants. Their outreach programs identify potential new participants and encourage them to join the system. In fact, several of the award recipients went on to receive funds from DPR’s Pest Management Alliance Grants Program, which allowed them to further increase sharing of ideas and information.

Nominating an IPM Achievement

Nominations for IPM Achievement Awards can be submitted year round. DPR looks for several characteristics to identify these exceptional achievers in pest management (see box below).

If you would like to nominate your organization or another group or organization for an IPM Achievement Award, please complete the nomination form and send to DPR. The form is on DPR’s Web site. Go to www.cdpr.ca.gov and click on the “A-Z” Index on the left side of the page. Scroll down to “IPM Achievement Awards” and click that. You will find not only a link to the nomination form but also previous award recipients and a short description of each group.

To find out more about the IPM Achievement Awards Program or DPR’s other pest management programs go to: http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pestmgt/ipminov/achieve.htm

IPM Achievement Awards Program

Michelle Andreetta  
Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Pest Management & Licensing Branch  
P.O. Box 4015  
Sacramento, California 95812-4015  
achieve@cdpr.ca.gov  
916-324-4245

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN AN IPM ACHIEVEMENT NOMINEE

- A pest management systems approach based on preferential use of cultural practices, beneficial organisms and other scientific principles of IPM that reduce risk.

- An organizational structure that allows for research and the continued development of new ideas.

- Education and outreach that encourages the sharing of ideas and information.

- An administrative organization that unifies and supports the collective efforts of participants and provides opportunities to expand the number of participants.