

As you know, EPA held a national conference in November 2009 – The New PESP, Building Stronger Partnerships for Effective Environmental Stewardship. One of the outcomes of the conference was a strong commitment to IPM performance, education, stewardship and participation with the ultimate goal of correlating our efforts to improvements in human health and the environment. The Environmental Stewardship Branch (ESB) has been hard at work over the past two years redesigning PESP in response to member feedback and to position the program for continuous growth.

In our efforts to encourage membership participation and IPM accomplishments, the PESP Awards Program's name was amended to "PestWise Awards" to promote the five core goals of ESB. It is our intent to provide public recognition to members/partners within the four PESP groups (live, work, play, and farm) for their extraordinary commitment to IPM performance while simultaneously demonstrating how they are collectively making a difference through their IPM accomplishments in environmental stewardship. In addition, the new awards program will provide members/partners the opportunity to align themselves with the goals of EPA's Administrator and Office of Pesticide Programs by fostering collaborative innovations among PESP stakeholders that highlight and encourage solutions to pest management.

The PestWise awards program is comprised of three competitive categories that will bestow a maximum of six awards based on IPM promotion, performance, and impacts accomplishments. The following set of awards has been approved:

- The **IPM Innovator Award** was established to recognize an organization from the public and/or a PESP member's accomplishments during the previous calendar year in risk reduction and IPM promotion beyond their own internal operations. The award is based on evidence of substantial impacts that promotes ESB's goals and supports IPM performance by accomplishing the following:
 - **Goal 1** – Increasing public understanding of pests and pesticide risks.
 - **Goal 2** – Promoting reduced-risk practices and IPM adoption.
 - **Goal 3** – Expanding biopesticide use and technology transfer.
 - **Goal 4** – Promoting IPM adoption by implementing the IPM Roadmap.
 - **Goal 5** – Achievements in regulatory transition assistance.

- The **PESP Shining Star Award** was established to recognize a silver and gold tier member's accomplishments in implementing IPM principles. The award is based on evidence of impacts in risk reduction, education/promotion, and economic benefits.

- The **Sustained Excellence in IPM Award** recognizes a PESP silver and gold tier member who has received multiple PESP awards for their continuing commitment to demonstrate the economic benefits associated with IPM, participated in education and outreach activities, reduced risk to human health and the environment through IPM implementation, and promoted environmental stewardship through the adoption of best management practices.

If you have been actively engaged in IPM practices, I strongly encourage your organization to complete the electronic application for the PESP Shining Star or Sustained Excellence Award (at <http://www.tfaforms.com/208520>) or for the IPM Innovator Award (at <http://www.tfaforms.com/208526>) on or before the July 29, 2011 deadline. An EPA review committee will review all application submissions and evaluate each applicant's IPM performance quantitatively and qualitatively using the established evaluation criteria to determine awardees. To eliminate potential bias during the decision-making process, a blind review process will be employed in which the names of the applicants are masked. PESP members have a stated commitment to environmental stewardship and a quality track record of environmental compliance. To ensure the integrity of PESP, EPA will conduct a compliance screen on selected awardees for criminal and environmental violations. Should you have questions concerning the awards program, please contact Raderrio Wilkins at (703) 308-1259 or email: wilkins.raderrio@epa.gov.