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*Advocating for progressive integrated pest management to improve environmental, social and economic conditions through the application of scientific principles.*

## IPM Voice Update

July 21, 2011

### Why I became a member of IPM Voice, Harold Coble

To whom it may concern:

I became a member of IPM Voice because I believe that for IPM to survive as a strong, viable approach to pest management, we must have a champion - a champion willing to educate and provide documentation of our successes and needs to those in seats of authority. I believe IPM Voice can be that champion.

Those of us involved on a day-to-day basis understand the importance of IPM, but we mostly take for granted that the public and our elected representatives understand that also - WRONG! We have seen what can happen to support programs for IPM when no one is standing up for us. We lost over \$6 million in research and extension program support and could still lose another \$4 million in support for IPM Centers, and I personally believe we lost that because no one made the case for the importance of those programs. That has to change!

I have heard that some are concerned that they might have a conflict of interest belonging to an organization that advocates for IPM. While it is true many of us, me included, are prohibited from going directly to Congress to advocate for our own programs, there is no conflict in belonging to an organization that might seek to inform our legislators about our situation and advocate for our programs. I also belong to AAA, AARP, USGA, a national political party, and some other organizations that advocate for things I believe in.

If those of us who know IPM and have spent much of our professional lives trying to improve other people's lives through IPM cannot stand up for what we believe in, we should just find something else to do.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold D. Coble".

Harold D. Coble

*Harold Coble is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Crop Science, North Carolina State University. He now coordinates the Federal IPM Coordinating Committee and is employed as an agronomist by USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy. Dr. Coble previously served as the USDA's National IPM Coordinator.*

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[Join IPM Voice today](#), and support active advocacy for progressive IPM. Please forward this email to colleagues and ask for their support and participation.

*IPM Voice is an independent, non-profit organization advocating for integrated pest management (IPM) that is genuinely progressive and seeks continuous improvement of*

*environmental, social and economic conditions through application of accepted scientific principles. IPM Voice was formed in 2010 by more than 35 professionals working to expand the benefits IPM has provided to agriculture and communities for more than 40 years.*

Visit the [IPM Voice website](#) for more information!

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### **NIFA Announces FY 2011 RFA for Regional IPM Centers**

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announces the availability of grant funds and requests applications for the Regional IPM Centers Program for fiscal year 2011 to advance the NIFA priority area of Global Food Security and the goals of the [National Roadmap for Integrated Pest Management](#). The amount available for support of this program in FY 2011 is approximately \$2,850,000 to fund equally-funded grants for Regional IPM Centers, one in each of its administrative regions: North Central, Northeastern, Southern and Western for an 18 month period (with a 12 month budget). Applications are due August 19, 2011.

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