



United States Department of Agriculture

History of the Federal Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee

The [Federal Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee](#) (FIPMCC) provides leadership for federal [Integrated Pest Management](#). A federal committee for IPM was originally formed in 1979 and these efforts continue today, over 40 years later.

Federal IPM Coordination

In 1972, President Nixon directed federal agencies to advance the concept and application of Integrated Pest Management in agriculture, forestry, and other relevant sectors in his [Special Message to the Congress Outlining the 1972 Environmental Program](#). This Special Message described IPM as “judicious use of selective chemical pesticides in combination with nonchemical agents and methods. It seeks to maximize reliance on such natural pest population controls as predators, sterilization, and pest diseases.” This was the first known federal mention of IPM.

An interagency IPM coordinating committee was first established by the request of President Carter in 1979, in his [Memorandum From the President on Integrated Pest Management](#). This Memorandum described IPM as “a systems approach to reduce pest damage to tolerable levels through a variety of techniques, including predators and parasites, genetically resistant hosts, natural environmental modifications and, when necessary and appropriate, chemical pesticides.” This concept was adopted as the working definition by the first Interagency IPM Coordinating Committee, which was chaired by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). In the same year, CEQ published a report titled simply, [Integrated Pest Management](#), that included a discussion of the federal role in IPM at the time.

The Interagency IPM Coordinating Committee’s 1980 report to the President, [Progress Made by Federal Agencies in the Advancement of Integrated Pest Management](#), groups federal pest management activities into six systems: agriculture, forestry, rangeland, rights-of-way, urban environments, and public health, and discusses the history and status of IPM in each system. The report states that “the goal of IPM is to manage pests at acceptable levels through the use of procedures that result in economic and social benefits with minimum adverse environmental and public health impacts” and argues that “a national policy is needed to focus the diverse pest management activities of federal agencies toward the full implementation of IPM.” At the time, the annual expenditures for federal pest control efforts were nearly \$700 million (\$2.2 billion adjusted for inflation). The need for federal coordination on IPM was clear. However, the committee was not continued.

New Goals for IPM

In 1993, the USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration jointly set a goal to implement IPM practices on 75% of U.S. crop acres by the



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year 2000. To advance this goal, USDA announced an IPM Initiative in 1994. The Initiative was discussed extensively at the [Third National IPM Symposium](#) in 1996, and described by the [USDA IPM Coordinator](#) at the time, Dr. Barry Jacobsen. The events leading up to the Initiative are detailed in [Integrated Pest Management: Current and Future Strategies](#), a report by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology and USDA Agricultural Research Service. USDA thinking about IPM around this time is described in the 1996-1997 [Agricultural Resources and Environmental Indicators](#) (USDA Economic Research Service Agricultural Handbook No. 712).

The 1994 USDA IPM Initiative included a call for a new IPM committee that would include representatives of USDA agencies with responsibilities for IPM research and implementation. The committee's role was to provide guidance on policies, programs, and budgets relevant to IPM. In 1998, functions of this committee were transferred to the then newly-created [Office of Pest Management Policy](#) (OPMP).

While IPM had been discussed in the Executive Branch as early as 1972, integrated pest management was formally defined in the [Food Quality Protection Act of 1996](#), codified in [7 U.S.C. § 136r](#). This law also required federal agencies to use IPM in their pest management activities. The law reads:

The Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Administrator, shall implement research, demonstration, and education programs to support adoption of Integrated Pest Management. Integrated Pest Management is a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator shall make information on Integrated Pest Management widely available to pesticide users, including Federal agencies. Federal agencies shall use Integrated Pest Management techniques in carrying out pest management activities and shall promote Integrated Pest Management through procurement and regulatory policies, and other activities.

Formation of the FIPMCC

In 2001, the General Accounting Office (GAO) examined the adoption of integrated pest management in U.S. agriculture at the request of the U.S. Senate. The GAO report, [Agricultural Pesticides: Management Improvements Needed to Further Promote Integrated Pest Management](#), determined that agricultural adoption of IPM has resulted in some environmental and economic benefits, but that additional work is needed to fully realize the benefits of IPM. Specifically, GAO recommended that the Secretary of Agriculture establish effective department-wide leadership, coordination, and management for federally funded IPM efforts, among other goals.



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In response to the GAO report, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman indicated that the IPM program would continue to be managed through her office. To provide an infrastructure for appropriate management of federal IPM, the Secretary proposed the formation of the [Federal Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee](#) (FIPMCC). She further indicated that USDA will:

- develop a comprehensive, authoritative, and focused road map for IPM;
- prioritize the results that USDA wants to achieve; and
- set measurable goals for the IPM initiative and devise methods for measurement of progress toward the goals.

Following Secretary Veneman's response to GAO, the FIPMCC was formed. The Committee developed the [National Road Map for Integrated Pest Management](#), which was first introduced at the [4th National IPM Symposium](#) in 2003. In addition to their other duties, FIPMCC coordinates periodic updates of the Road Map to reflect the evolving science and practice of IPM, including in [2004](#) and [2013](#). The Road Map was most recently updated in [2018](#).