

## **NCAC14\_SAC11 Meeting Report**

### **Basic Information**

Project number and title – NCAC14 and SAC11: Plant Pathology

Period covered: -- 01/01/2024-12/31/2025

Date of Report – 06/17/2025

Annual Meeting Date – 03/13/2025

Location – Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, Gainesville, FL (in-person and virtual); in conjunction with APS Joint meeting of the Caribbean and Southern Divisions, and, with the APS Academic Unit Leader's Forum (AULF).

### **Attendees**

Jane Schuh (Administrative Advisor NCAC14), Steve Lommel (Administrative Advisor SAC11), Ken Korth (Univ. Arkansas; Chair), Loren Giesler (Univ. Nebraska), Steven Harris (Iowa State Univ.), Won Bo Shim (Texas A&M Univ.), Carolyn Young (North Carolina State Univ.), Pierce Paul (The Ohio State Univ.), Mathews Paret (Univ. Florida), Lawrence Datnoff (Louisiana State Univ.), Megan Kennelly (Kansas State Univ.), Tesfaye Mengiste (Purdue Univ.), Heike Buecking (Univ. Missouri), David Held (Auburn Univ.), Bonnie Ownley (Univ. Tennessee), Corey Hirsch (Univ. Minnesota), Sam Markell (North Dakota State Univ.), Lindsey du Toit (Washington State Univ.), Amanda Gevens (Univ. Wisconsin).

### **Brief Summary of Minutes of Annual Meeting**

In-person meeting with virtual (Zoom) option – March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The agenda was distributed prior to the meeting

Ken Korth (Chair) opened the meeting with introductions by all participants in-person and online

The meeting included members from the North Central States (NCAC14) as well as the Southern States (SAC11), which demonstrates the broad relevance and impact of this group. Additional members of the APS AULF joined the meeting. The administrative advisors for NCAC14 (Jane Schuh; Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Kansas State Univ. College of Agriculture) and SAC11 (Steve Lommel; Associate Dean and Director, NC Agricultural Research Service, North Carolina State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) provided the committee with an update. The AA serves as a resource who can provide general guidance and clarification that improves the effectiveness of the committee. The AAs reiterated the overall value of Hatch multistate projects as a means to foster collaboration, particularly for new faculty. In addition, they stressed the importance of Department Heads knowing which multistate groups their faculty belong to and encouraging participation in their meetings.

The committee's USDA-NIFA representative (Rubella Goswani, Deputy Director, Institute for Youth, Family, and Community) was not able to attend the meeting and so no update was provided.

### **Project Reviews**

NC1183; Mycotoxins in a Changing World; renewal

<https://nimss.org/projects/19199>

Review and discussion of the project was led by Steven Harris and Won Bo Shim.

Renewal of the project was unanimously approved.

NCERA184; Management of Small Grains; midterm review

<https://nimss.org/projects/18919>

Review and discussion of the project was led by Pierce Paul and Ken Korth.

The committee unanimously agreed that excellent progress has been made on this project.

NCERA224; IPM Strategies for Arthropod Pests and Diseases in Nurseries and Landscapes; midterm review

<https://nimss.org/projects/18875>

Review and discussion of the project was led by Amanda Gevens and Loren Geisler.

The committee unanimously agreed that excellent progress has been made on this project.

### **AULF Discussion**

This discussion began with APS Council updates and was followed by comments on departmental enrollment trends and new programs. Brief updates from each department were also provided. Other topics discussed included; (i) the impacts of AI on teaching, research, extension, and faculty evaluation, (ii) department leadership development, and (iii) predatory journals.

### **Election of Officers**

Steven Harris will be the Chair for the coming year

### **Future Meeting Plans**

The current proposal for the 2026 meeting is to meet jointly with the APS Southern Division, whose annual branch meeting is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 2025 in Athens, GA. The meeting would once again include both NCAC14 and SAC11.