

NCERA 220 Termination Report 2021

Project/Activity Number: NCERA 220

Project/Activity Title: Biological control of arthropods

Period Covered: 10/01/2016 to 09/30/2021

Date of Report: 09/06/2021

Annual Meeting Dates: 06/03/2017, 03/18/2018, 03/17/2019, 03/18/2020 (unofficial & virtual)

Cumulative Participants:

Jeff Bradshaw – University of Nebraska

Luis Canas – Ohio State University

Deborah Finke – University of Missouri

Matthew Grieshop - Michigan State University

Jason Harmon – North Dakota State University

George Heimpel - University of Minnesota

Brian McCornack - Kansas State University

Matt O’Neal - Iowa State University

Julie Peterson – University of Nebraska

Ben Puttler – University of Missouri

John Ruberson – University of Nebraska

Mariana Szucs – Michigan State University

Adam Varenhorst - South Dakota State University

Jennifer White - University of Kentucky

Robert Wright - University of Nebraska

Chris Hamilton (NCRA representative)

Brief Summary of Minutes of Annual Meeting:

- The 2020 scheduled meeting was to be in association with the NCB-ESA annual meeting on March 15-18, 2020 in Oklahoma City, OK. Due to COVID, that meeting was postponed and thus the in-person NCERA220 meeting cancelled.
- A virtual meeting was held on March 18, 2020 with NCERA220 participants.
- The first objective was to highlight the virtual symposium that was to be held to replace the NCERA220 sponsored symposium that was meant to take place during the NCB-ESA annual meeting.
- The second objective was to discuss the process for renewing NCERA220. Although there was some hesitation and concern, especially given the pandemic, we tentatively agreed to try to go forward with the renewal process.
- Jennifer White agreed to be the group’s next secretary and Marianna Szucs rotated to be the group’s next chairperson.
- On October 2, 2020 a virtual meeting was held to discuss the renewal process and if there was enough interest and energy to complete that process, especially given everything going on.
- The result of that meeting was a proposal to not go forward with the renewal. No member disagreed with this proposal, so the group has not gone forward with renewal.

Accomplishments:

The two top objectives of the NCERA220 group have been to educate various groups about biological control and to promote collaborative research on biological control. Over the course of the project, the group has worked towards these objectives through annual meetings as well as a variety of symposia and webinar series. These events have helped to promote discussion and research, particularly among those researching biological control throughout the North Central Region.

Short-term Outcomes: Engage with multiple campuses, faculty, researchers, and graduate students.

Outputs:

- NCERA220 members organized a special symposium of six research presentations at the 2017 North Central Branch Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting. “The Interplay of Host Plant Resistance and Biological Control in Pest Management”. Organized by JP Harmon, GE Heimpel, ME O’Neal, and JA White. Indianapolis, IN, June 2017.
- NCERA220 members organized a special symposium of eight research presentations at the 2019 North Central Branch Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting. “Pollinators and Biological Control: Overlap and Reciprocal Insights”. Organized by JP Harmon and ME O’Neal. Cincinnati, OH, March 2019. Across the eight presentations there was a total audience of approximately 300 people.
- A webinar series was organized by members of NCERA220 starting in 2018. The series ran over the academic year to exchange ideas between the different states throughout the year. The first iteration of the series scheduled 7 talks from researchers at different states during the last half of 2018. For Spring 2019, five webinars were scheduled and took place during April and May 2019. Faculty, researchers, and students from across the North Central region were invited to attend and participate in the series.
- NCERA220 members organized a special symposium of 12 research presentations. It was originally meant to be part of 2020 North Central Branch Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, but due to the cancellation of the meeting, it was repurposed into a virtual symposium. “Biological Control in Agroecosystems and Natural Areas: Highlighting the Work of a New Generation of Biocontrol Scientists”. Organized by JA White, M Szucs, and JP Harmon. Virtual Symposium, May 2020. Seventy-two different attendees logged in to be part of the symposium.

Activities:

Over the course of the project, our educational and promotional objectives were accomplished through annual meetings, special symposia, and virtual webinars.

Milestones:

Project is now complete.

Impacts:

- By planning biological control webinars aimed at interested faculty, researchers, and students in the North Central Region we helped raise awareness of cutting-edge developments in biological control in our region. Doing so also facilitated opportunities for producing collaborative and solution-driven sustainable research impacting food production and invasive species management.
- By organizing special symposia about biological control, we helped consolidate knowledge on sustainable solutions to pest problems in the North Central region. This, in turn, facilitates the adoption of such practices while encouraging research into additional practices.

Publications:

No additional publications to report beyond those covered in previous annual reports.