

The background of the slide features several triangular slices of watermelon with red flesh and green rinds, scattered across a bright blue wooden surface. The slices are arranged in a way that they appear to be part of a larger watermelon cut into sections.

# IR-4: National Watermelon Association

Berry Tanner

IR-4 Commodity Liaison Committee Member

# My History with IR-4

Field Research Director  
of North Florida IR-4  
Field trial in Gainesville  
and Citra, Florida

Years 1999- 2006

2004 IR-4 Technical  
Service Award Recipient  
when Bob Holm was IR-4  
Executive Director – Pre  
Jerry Baron

Performed over 300 GLP  
trial notebooks

- First years of Electronic Notebooks with Electronic Pen from 3M
- Did a few books in 2004 and 2005

**Thank you for  
Allowing me  
to Speak with  
you Today**

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**Began Representing The National  
Watermelon Association as CLC  
member in 2009.**

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**As a result, been involved with IR-4 for  
24 years currently.**

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**Still very active with CLC and Friends  
of IR-4 group**

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**It is an honor to have the opportunity  
to speak with you today**

## IR-4 Over the Years:

IR-4 has been very Successful

- ROI is \$8.97 billion to the US GDP annually
- Supports 123,000 jobs
- 7 jobs per \$1000 invested
- 75,000 Registrations

# National Watermelon Association: Who are we?



National Watermelon Association started in Atlanta, Georgia

March of 1914  
18 individuals aiming to expand watermelon markets

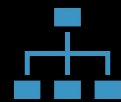


Today it is the industries main trade voice (well over 700 members)

Growers  
Shippers  
Suppliers



Goal is to improve production, handling, and promotion of watermelons.



Purpose was to benefit the entire industry from farm to consumer by focusing on better growing, grading, handling, and sales.

**National  
Watermelon  
Association:  
top 5 states for  
Watermelon  
production**



**Florida— 35,203 acres**



**Texas – 27,971 acres**



**Georgia—14,866 to 40,000 acres**



**California— 14,045 acres**



**North Carolina—7,820 acres**



**The rest of the states:**

South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland,  
Delaware, Indiana, Illinois, Alabama,  
Mississippi, Arizona etc



**Total US acres is roughly around 100,000 acres**

# National Watermelon Association: what we do?

**Advocacy & Policy:** Lobby Congress and Federal Agencies for policies supporting specialty crops

**Research and Innovation:** Fund research into pest/disease management, sustainable practices, and production efficiency, providing growers with cutting-edge solutions

**Food Safety:** Provide critical resources and guidance to help members meet complex food safety regulation, protecting both consumers and the industry

**Industry Unity:** Voice for farmers, shippers, and suppliers to be a unified front to address challenges

**Education and Networking:** State and National conferences and the Vinline publication to educate members

**Sustainability:** work to ensure long-term viability of the industry through education, advocacy and support for responsible practices

The NWA handles “behind-the-scenes” work of policy, research and regulatory compliance to complement the NWPB’s consumer focused marketing efforts to support the entire watermelon sector.

The background of the slide features several slices of watermelon on wooden sticks, arranged in a circular pattern. The watermelon slices are cut into wedges, showing the red flesh, black seeds, and green rind. They are placed on a piece of light-colored parchment paper, which is set against a rustic, weathered wooden surface with blue and green paint splatters. The overall aesthetic is fresh and summery.

# Pesticides Registrations for Watermelon S

IR-4 has helped U.S. Watermelon growers by facilitation the registration of vital herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and biopesticides.

The Registrations of these pesticides ensure a safe, and abundant crop

Eliminates many barriers to trade (ex. MRL)

Gives specialty crops access to pesticides that typically are provided to large acreage crops by chemical manufacturing companies

**The National Watermelon Association says Thank You!**



## IR-4 is Critical to helping support specialty crop growers

- Provides growers **labeled products** with use rates and timings pest to be controlled and proper instruction to avoid any harm from such use to the crop, to handlers, mixers, loaders, field workers, packing house personnel, shippers and retail consumers.
- IR-4 provides the **sound science** that insures the most important things to Specialty Crop industries
  - Research: Specialty Crop growers want sound science so they are using the best tool when necessary to address a pest problem
  - Food Safety: Specialty crop growers want to produce nutritious, food that is very safe to consume as often as one desires with no harm to health.
  - Sustainability: Specialty crop want to protect the farm, the soil, the industry from any material that harms it. Growers trust IR-4, EPA, FDA and other regulators to help ensure the Specialty Crop industries have a long future

## Example of IR-4 Impact on U.S. Watermelon Growers

- For many years, Palmer Amaranth has become a problem that many growers of Watermelon were having a serious issue controlling:
- Palmer Amaranth is highly competitive and problematic weed in watermelons
  - Rapid growth,- shades out watermelon plants (taller weed)
  - Water efficient c-4
  - Greatly reducing yields up to 80%
  - Interferes with harvest in the tall, large weed hinders manual harvest of watermelon
- Fomsafen which was registered thanks to work by IR-4, when used properly with mechanical and cultural practices maintains economic control of this weed.

IR-4 activities  
on  
Watermelon  
besides  
Residue

Multi-state trials for soil applied chemicals to manage fusarium wilt

Helped secure the registration on fomasfen for control of palmer amaranth

Performs efficacy and crop safety trials for other pesticides such a metribuzin on rotational crops that include watermelons (p13363) as part of protocol titled EFFECT OF METRIBUZIN ON ROTATIONAL CROPS (SNAP BEAN) P13362

# Getting a New Pesticide

- NWA sponsored research trials at Universities, contract researchers, and USDA for efficacy and crop safety of pesticide materials on Problematic Pest by majority of Members
  - PCR submitted for best candidate
  - Southern Region Priorities if get A move on
  - FUW Priorities and Manufacturer Support
  - Field Trials
  - Laboratory Analysis of Residues
  - Final report
  - EPA review and registration
  - Label?
  - Adoption

After  
Registration:  
then what?  
How do  
growers learn  
about an New

- **State Agencies** :State department of agriculture website notifications. State Extension and Local Extension meetings
- **EPA alerts** (Federal Register)
- **Pesticide Labels** (CDMS) ([greenbook.net](http://greenbook.net)) (manufacture websites) and the product container.
- **NWA** provides information in educational programs and in it quarterly on-line vinline publication at [Watermelon.ag](http://Watermelon.ag)

# Grower Adoption

- Growers decide if/or not to utilize and adopt a new approved product or use into their current agronomic program based upon its label requirements and how that use may fit into current practices.
  - Does Grower have a history of the pest problem New Product control?
  - PHI, REI, plant-back restrictions, tank mix restrictions and compatibility issues, application timing, manner of application, Mixer/Handler PPE requirements, Special documentation of use, amount of carrier per acre, risk of crop injury, and economics.
  - Utilitarian of a Pesticide is an Individual Grower Decision that regulated by many agencies before-during-and after that application.
  - **THE LABEL IS THE LAW!!** Using a pesticide differently than the label states is a violation of federal law

# Sponsors to Thank

- **Chris Kamberg , Owner, TriYield of Arcadia, Florida**
- **George Szczepanski, Executive Director, National Watermelon Association**
- **Natonal Watermelon Association Board members**
- **USDA's IR-4 Project**

# National Watermelon Association and IR-4

Continued Success Together!

Any Questions?

