

School IPM 2015

Reducing Pest Problems and Pesticide Hazards in Our Nation's Schools

School IPM 2015 Newsletter: June 2011

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If you haven't already, please sign your facility manager up for our mailing list.



Attention Superintendents!

Please circulate to facility managers and interested school staff.

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What's New This Month?

- The US EPA's [PESP Wire Spring 2011 newsletter](#)
- A number of professional school IPM blogs have been developed recently, including:
 - [IPM in Schools: The Nebraska Experience](#)
 - [IPM in NC Schools and Childcare Facilities](#)
 - [Insects in the City](#)
- The US EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs recently announced a grant opportunity to support school IPM. The request for proposals (RFP) can be found [here](#). Submissions are due July 18, 2011.

*View this newsletter as a [PDF](#).

Greetings from School IPM 2015!

Every day, 49 million children attend school in the United States, served by nearly seven million teachers and staff. But they're not alone. Schools are also frequented by a number of pests including cockroaches, mice, dust mites and more. Asthma is epidemic among children, impacting nearly 6% of school children nationally with rates as high as 25% in urban centers. Cockroaches are potent asthma triggers.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a prevention-based, highly effective approach proven to reduce pest complaints and pesticide use by up to 90% in schools and other public buildings. IPM practices such as sanitation and exclusion also improve food safety, fire safety and energy conservation. Our newsletter highlights real-life examples of IPM in practice and can help you start an IPM program in your school district. For more information, visit www.schoolipm2015.com.



A Testimony of Best Practices for In-house IPM

Tarrant County, TX - In 2008, Keller Independent School District (KISD) discontinued their contract with pest management services and transitioned to an in-house IPM program. Three years later, the district leads an effective IPM program that prides itself on preventative action, educating school leaders and implementing healthier, low-risk solutions.

KISD is located in northeast Tarrant County, Texas. It spans 51 square miles, hosts 5,000,000 square feet of facilities including 40 campus buildings and serves 32,000 students and 3,600 employees. "With such a large district, everything we do around and inside KISD facilities affects our buildings' occupants," said John Gann, Director of Maintenance for the district. "Many are sensitive to environmental triggers."

To address pest problems on such a large and high-use area, the district uses an outside-in approach, beginning with any issues that may arise around the exterior of buildings and grounds. "In every building we work with, our IPM team performs a walk-around examination of the building exterior to identify areas where pests might gain entry into our campus," says Gann. "We take notes and pictures to record areas in need of repair. I always remind my staff that attention to detail is essential, considering mice can gain entry into a building with a hole the size of a dime."

- Join the [Schoolbugs listserv](#) to ask questions, learn from others and share successes and



challenges

Upcoming Events

June 22, 2011

Integrated Pest Management Training
Workshop, Mooresville, IN

[More Information](#)

June 24, 2011

Texas School IPM
Coordinator Training,
Lower Rio Valley, TX

[More Information](#)

July 7, 2011

School Grounds Best
Management Practices
Workshop
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

[More Information](#)

November 16-17, 2011

Texas Integrated Pest Management
Affiliate for Public Schools (TIPMAPS)
IPM Symposium,
San Marcos, TX

[More Information](#)

The "easy stuff" - what Gann calls simple changes to maintenance practices - saves the school district both time and money. Gann and his maintenance crew take measures to repair any existing holes or damages on the exterior of their facilities. They also utilize inexpensive monitoring techniques. "At KISD, we strategically place perimeter bait stations around the building," says Gann. "Our maintenance staff then monitors and document activity on the stations." When the exterior areas of the school district are pest-proofed, the maintenance team moves inside.

"Once inside, we sometimes find a high pest presence in the classroom," reports Gann. "In order to accurately track pests, we take pictures with digital cameras to document everything that pests use for food and shelter." Documenting where pests live and what they eat is necessary to eliminate the source of the infestation. Without food and shelter, pests have no source of life. If that source of life is not removed, pests will return again and again.

"In my years of experience as a maintenance director, I have found rodents, roaches, ants and even snakes hiding in cardboard containers, open crayon boxes, glue sticks, candy wrappers, clothes piles, food pans, trash receptacles and even fish bowls," says Gann. "We struggle to prevent pest infestations in our facilities if everything a pest needs to live, breathe and reproduce exists."

For Gann and his maintenance staff, the overall goal is to show school administration, staff, parents and students the consequences of not maintaining a sanitary environment and demonstrate that healthier, safer alternatives are available. Gann explains, "IPM is about protecting children's health by seeking out alternative solutions to pesticides and removing pests without harming the buildings' occupants."

Gann gives the following advice to taking simple steps towards practicing IPM in schools:

- Store all art supplies and snack foods in plastic air tight containers or jars with lids.
- Empty trash with food remnants often. Never leave food wrappers in indoor trash receptacles overnight.
- Require additional cleaning of rooms where food is cooked or served.
- Hang or store clothing (especially lost and found items) in plastic containers with lids.
- Report all water leaks. Repair or remove all water sources as quickly as possible.
- Do not block or prop open exterior doors. Post signs telling students, staff and guests to close exterior doors all the way.
- Store fruit in a refrigerator when not being served and stow all dry goods in the kitchen in plastic containers with lids.
- Stock all food products on shelving, never on the floor.
- Remove all boxes, card board and other packing materials from the campus. Do not leave materials on campus overnight.
- Clean any grease, crumbs or water from counters, floors, serving lines, etc.

The Keller Independent School District was successful in implementing IPM solutions, but it did not happen overnight. A successful in-house

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IPM program - one that cuts costs and reduces pests - takes planning and implementation based on proven best practice techniques.



Pest Presses: Don't Reinvent the Wheel

"Doing more on less" is the mantra that many schools are living by these days. In a time of shrinking budgets and time-constrained staff members, schools can use all the help they can get, especially when it comes to pest management. Pest Presses are useful resources for IPM coordinators, facility managers and school administration to use to educate school staff, parents and students about the importance of IPM and safely keeping pests out of schools. A number of IPM professionals around the country have developed customizable newsletters that schools can personalize and circulate in paper or electronic format. These publications include information on lifecycle, human health risks and best management practices for common pests such as bed bugs, cockroaches, head lice, mosquitoes, bees, wasps, mice, spiders, termites and more. Pest Presses are available to download and edit and can be found at the following websites:

- [University of Florida](#) (Word and PDF formats available)
- [Auburn University](#) (Word and PDF formats available)
- Arizona:
 - [University of Arizona](#) (PDF, 2004-2009)
 - [Western School IPM Working Group](#) (PDF, 2010)

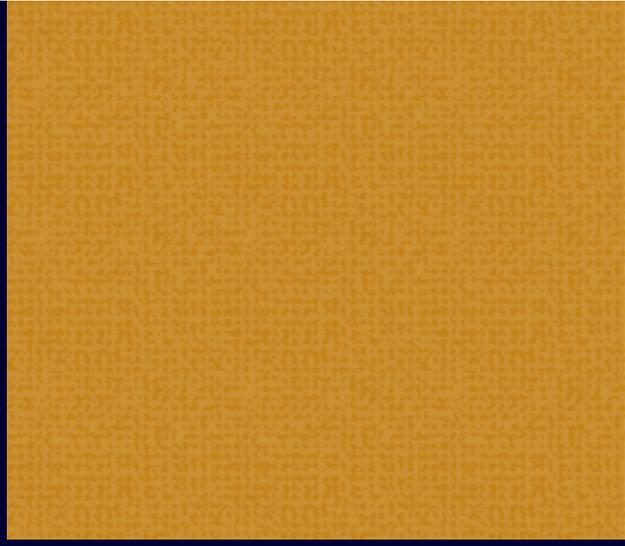


How Much Does IPM Cost?

Have you ever wondered how much it costs your school district to maintain an IPM program? Thanks to an up-and-coming tool called the [IPM Cost Calculator](#), schools will soon be able to accurately estimate the annual expenses for their district to implement an IPM program. Funded by a grant from the [USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\) Southern Region IPM Center](#) and developed by Dr. Blake Bennett, Dr. Michael Merchant, Janet Hurley and Nate VanBuskirk of Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the IPM Cost Calculator is a free teaching and evaluation tool designed to help school staff, administrators and facility personnel ensure a pest-free environment with the most efficient use of financial resources. Its mission is to help key decision makers in schools reach informed decisions regarding their IPM program, including planning and budgeting for important improvements.

In addition to determining the current total cost of an IPM program, the IPM Cost Calculator software is designed to:

- Evaluate pest infestation risk levels of schools;
- Offer suggestions for building improvements and repairs to reduce risks;
- Provide a framework for devising IPM budgets, including contractual costs, salaries, fixed equipment expenses (e.g., vehicles, computers) and variable expenses (e.g., cleaning supplies, facility repair costs);
- Provide a "what if" forecasting tool to estimate changing risks of infestation with different levels of investment in building maintenance;
- Allow collection of data from schools nationwide.



The IPM Cost Calculator's user-friendly online interface allows participants to easily complete a 64-question survey of the schools in their district. Survey questions address pest hot-spot zones, such as outdoor garbage areas, staff lounges, cafeterias and food storage areas as well as behavioral practices of teachers, custodians, kitchen staff and administrators. Among its features, the IPM Cost Calculator uses information on 18 frequently occurring pests to help gauge pest risk for schools. Pest density maps are associated with each of the 18 pests, giving the calculator the ability to predict pest risk based on a school's zip code.

The IPM Cost Calculator is designed to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of onsite facility assessments. The full version of the IPM Cost Calculator will be available late 2011. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ipmcalculator.com/>.