

School IPM 2015

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

School IPM 2015 Newsletter: March 2010

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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.

What's New This Month?

- US EPA released its [PestWise website](#)
- Track the progress of the [School Environment Protection Act of 2009](#)
- [Bug Scope Project](#), an interactive scanning electron microscope (SEM) that allows students anywhere

*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 Pest Management Professional's Perspective on IPM in Schools

For many school systems, hiring a pest management professional (PMP) makes good economic sense. Contracting options range from regular inspections to on-call service when a professional is needed to address a problem. To better understand the lives of PMPs working in schools, we spoke with Mike Orlino of [Superior Pest Elimination](#) about how his company works with New York City schools.

Superior works with over 70 schools in the New York and New Jersey areas. Orlino relates obstacles when working in schools, or any facility that feeds the mouths of many. "Commercial kitchens are very challenging to keep pest free," says Orlino, "the volume of food and other products moving in, and food waste moving out, can be enormous." Public schools in New York serve a few hundred to over 1,000 meals per day. Kitchens range from 1,500 to 2,000 square feet in size and often contain 20 to 30 refrigerators. To track pest presence, Superior relies on thorough inspection and monitoring. Technicians regularly and strategically take apart equipment, such as stainless steel drawers, to inspect for signs of insects such as cockroaches which can take shelter inside. Taking the time to inspect areas that are hard to access is often essential to resolving a problem.

Like many districts around the country, New York City schools frequently have construction projects nearby, which can disturb outdoor rodent habitat and drive them inside school buildings in search of food and new shelter. Orlino's team can "rodent-proof anything"- from steam pipe chases to radiators to exhaust vents-using non-

in the world to explore the world of insects

- [California's Use of IPM in Managing Pests in Schools](#)
- Join the [Schoolbugs listserv](#) to ask questions, learn from others and share successes and challenges:



Upcoming Events

April 20-21, 2010:
School IPM Coordinator
Training; Brazoria/
southeast Houston area,
TX. [More Information](#)

May 16-19, 2010: National
Conference on Urban
Entomology; Portland,
OR. [More Information](#)

June 3, 2010:
US EPA Indoor Air Quality
(IAQ) Tools for Schools,
School IPM Webinar.
[More Information](#)

July 13-15, 2010
IPM Session at the
21st Annual Child Care
Training Conference; Las
Vegas, NV. [More
Information](#)

September 24-27, 2010:
IPM presentation at the
ASBO International
Meeting; Lake Buena

chemical methods including metal mesh, screening and all types of sealants designed for specific surfaces from asphalt to wood. Superior technicians use [PestPac](#) mobile devices-handheld computers that scan bar codes on traps and monitoring stations to produce a detailed report for each school building. School staff can then log-in to the system and view work orders and actions taken by technicians to assess and solve the problem.

Monthly visits from PMPs can't be the only line of defense in most schools. Some of New York City's school buildings exceed 80,000 square feet, an enormous amount of area to cover. Orlino and his team communicate regularly with school staff to educate them on pest biology, explain why pests are there, how they got there and how to resolve and prevent pest problems. "Education is key," says Orlino. His own technicians attend continuing education seminars such as the [NYC Rodent Control Academy](#) and participate in weekly pest-specific classroom training sessions. This training "keeps them sharp including knowing the difference between IPM and conventional pest management practices." Along with competitive wages and incentives, Orlino says that "continuing education makes employees feel valued and encourages them to perform better in their industry."

Superior prides itself with having a [Green Shield Certified](#) service. Third-party certifications, [EcoWise](#), [Green Pro](#) and [Green Shield Certified](#) offer credentials that require a higher level of training and performance for PMPs. Check the certification program websites to find certified PMPs. If none are available in your area, you can ask your local PMP to become certified.

Don't let cost concerns keep you from requesting an IPM service. While a higher level of service can certainly merit a higher rate, many PMPs will work with you to put together a program that will fit within your budget. And by implementing IPM, school districts have reduced pesticide use and pest complaints by 70% to 90%. Fewer complaints means less time spent dealing with them, and more satisfied staff and students. Improving sanitation and exclusion also improves fire safety, energy savings and food safety. Don't discount these hidden savings when considering your pest management budget.

➔ The Power of Professional Organizations

By C.G. Cezeaux, IPM Coordinator for Spring Independent School District, Houston, TX. Mr. Cezeaux wrote this article to share his thoughts on the important role of professional organizations in building effective school IPM programs.



Soon after graduating in 1980 from Stephen F. Austin State University with a Masters degree in Mid-management, I was hired as an assistant principal at [Spring Independent School District](#). Over the next 30 years, I would transition from assistant transportation director, to director of operations, to IPM coordinator. In 1995, when my supervisor asked me to take on the role of IPM coordinator, I had no idea what the position entailed. All I knew was that I had to register for a certification course and the closest one was offered through Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Dallas. At the annual training session, we learned the history

Vista, FL. [More Information](#)

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of IPM, its importance in schools and how to read pesticide labels including signal words and active ingredients. This was a wakeup call for me. I had never heard of some of the chemicals presented at the training. On my flight home, I knew I had taken on a big responsibility and that an IPM program could have a dramatic impact on the education and health of students and staff in our district.

To get my head around how to start an IPM program, my pesticide applicator and I reviewed every piece of paperwork we had, and openly discussed our current practices including monitoring, trapping and spraying. Though this review was helpful, I still felt lost and in need of guidance and peer support. After a little searching, I found a fantastic Houston-based association called [Gulf Coast Maintenance and Operations](#) (GCMO). Members of the organization are maintenance and operation directors but also wear other hats such as IPM coordinators and energy managers. Later I joined the [Texas Association of School Business Officials](#) (TASBO), which holds biannual conferences for its members located throughout the state. This past year, Janet Hurley of Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Tom Ohm of Frisco Independent School District and I formed the first state-wide IPM coordinators organization called Texas Integrated Pest Management Affiliates for Public Schools (TIPMAPS). We now have local chapters in the Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and San Angelo areas. All three organizations have helped me network and given me peer support and hands-on materials.

I believe it is essential for IPM coordinators to belong to a professional organization. Associations like GCMO, TASBO and TIPMAPS provide individuals with opportunities to meet people from school districts of all sizes and all types of organizations from all over the state. Association membership is about re-energizing old ideas and grasping new ones, learning new skills and sharing opinions with members of your profession. Without these organizations, we would not have our strong peer networks, the many continuing education opportunities or strong voices on legislation that affects us daily. I highly recommend that you find a professional organization in your state or region to join. And remember, you only get out of an organization what you put into it, so look for opportunities to get involved where you can best contribute as well as where you have most to learn.

Contacts: [C.G. Cezeaux](#), Spring Independent School District, [Janet Hurley](#), Texas AgriLife Extension, [Tom Ohm](#), Frisco Independent School District.

Be an IPM Pest Detective! New Video Game for Students and Teachers

By Erin Bauer and Clyde Ogg,
University of Nebraska--Lincoln.

Eureka Elementary School has serious pest problems including flies, cockroaches, rodents, ants and spiders. Fortunately these pests are the virtual kind, living inside a new on-line video game designed to teach students and teachers about Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Developed by University of Nebraska--Lincoln Extension, *Pest Private Eye and the Case of IPM in Schools* is a valuable addition to any IPM education plan. The website also includes



a teacher's guide with additional activities, lesson plans, pest profiles and a Pest Private Eye comic book.

The game targets fourth through sixth graders. Players perform a "virtual investigation" of Eureka Elementary, a fictional school. By learning about and identifying pests, inspecting rooms, picking up and using tools and interacting with school personnel, the student 'Pest Private Eyes' helps solve the school's pest problems. A virtual assistant, Penny Poe, helps players navigate the game including presenting important concepts.

During play, students learn about and implement various IPM strategies including sanitation by reducing clutter and cleaning up trash, exclusion by screening windows, eliminating access to harborage by sealing holes and to water by fixing leaks, trapping and other least hazardous pesticide options. By using a magnifying glass when they see a pest, players learn about the importance of identifying a pest before taking action to control it. Players use a "Pest ID" book to help with identification and can pick up clues about what pests have been observed by speaking with the principal and other school staff.

Students learn by using other IPM tools including flashlights, sticky traps, snap traps, bait and trash bags. During the game, players meet a pest management professional (PMP) who provides his cell phone number, enabling players to "call" for help and hints throughout the game. In the real world, this interaction with school administration, staff and the PMP represents the teamwork required for a successful school IPM program.

Funding for the game was provided by US EPA. Valuable feedback was contributed by pilot participants including libraries, summer 4-H camps and after-school programs. For more information about *Pest Private Eye and the Case of IPM in Schools*, including links to a demo, the Teacher's Guide, comic book and other resources, please visit <http://schoolipm.unl.edu/pestpi/>. Introduce the game to teachers and students in your school, and start a community-wide discussion on pest management issues and IPM!