**National School IPM 2020 Steering Committee Conference Call Notes for March 2017**

Please additions, omissions or other corrections to mneff@ipminstitute.org or afreund@ipminstitute.org

The Steering Committee meets via conference call on the third Friday of each month at 1:30PM CST. The following notes are for **March 17th, 2017.**

 **Roll**

* Janet Hurley**,** Extension Program Specialist – School IPM, Texas A&M Dallas Agricultural Research and Extension Center
* Joe LaForest, Co-Director, Southern IPM Center
* Frank Laufenberg, Project Team Member, IPM Institute of North America
* Kathy Murray, IPM Entomologist, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
* Lawrence “Fudd” Graham, Research Fellow IV, Extension Specialist, Auburn University
* Lynn Braband, Community IPM Extension Area Educator, New York State Community IPM Program of Cornell University
* Matt Baur, Associate Director, Western IPM Center
* Matt Neff, Project Coordinator, IPM Institute of North America
* Matthew Powell, Custodial Supervisor, KEA/KESPA Board of Directors, Director ESP at Large, National Education Association
* Michael Bauman, EPA Region 4
* Seth Dunlap, Mgr. Commercial Pest Control Section, Arkansas State Plant Board, Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO)
* Tim Stock, Associate Director and OSU School IPM Program Coordinator, Integrated Plant Protection Center, Oregon State University
* Wizzie Brown, Program Specialist – IPM – Travis County, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

**Agenda**

1. Welcome to New Member
2. Overview of the statewide Texas School IPM survey conducted in 2016
3. Regional/EPA updates
4. Suggested agenda items for next month’s call
5. **Welcome to New Member**
* Frank Laufenberg
	+ Frank introduced himself and explained his background was in Environmental Science and Sociology, and explained his current role at the IPM Institute. Frank will be taking over coordinating of these calls from Matt Neff. Frank said he’s looking forward to the calls.
1. **Overview of the statewide Texas School IPM survey conducted in 2016**
* Janet Hurley presented on the statewide Texas School IPM survey conducted from 1994-2016.
* In 1991, School IPM legislation was passed in Texas. It became enforceable by 1995.
	+ It has been in place for 21 years.
* Essentials of TX School IPM regulations:
	+ All schools must have an IPM policy
	+ There must be written IPM guidelines
	+ Every school must have an IPM coordinator
	+ Green, yellow and red category pesticide products
	+ IPM Coordinator
		- Every school must have an IPM coordinator.
		- Six hours of approved training required, plus every three years must get six additional hours.
		- Responsible for oversight of pest control programs, contractors, teachers.
	+ Monitoring for all campuses prior to any pesticide application
	+ Education for all campuses and staff
	+ IPM coordinator must approve and justify all red category applications.
* Surveys of Texas Schools
	+ In 1994, Damon Shadrock, a graduate student at TAMU, sent the initial survey on School IPM practices to 1046 districts for his master’s thesis. 517 responded.
	+ In 2005, a mail survey was sent out by Janet.
	+ In 2016, an online survey was conducted via Qualtrics software.
		- This was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at TAMU.
* Notable survey results
	+ Most respondents were mostly to very familiar with IPM.
	+ In 2016, most, but not all people had the correct definition of IPM.
	+ Familiarity with law and regulations: from 1993 to 2016, it rose from 38% to 82%.
	+ In 2005, 75% said their IPM program resulted in more effective pest management.
		- In 2016, the question was asked somewhat differently. 76% said they agree to strongly agree it has improved pest management.
		- This demonstrates that some people still have heartburn over the school IPM rule.
	+ The impact of IPM on pest control costs
		- 53% said IPM implementation reduced the long term cost of pest management in the district.
		- In 2016, the question was asked differently. Have IPM rules created an extra burden for the district?
			* 65% said there was none, 13% said yes, 22% were neutral.
			* This was dependent on district size. There are a number of districts that have grown in leaps and bounds but haven’t raised their maintenance budget.
	+ Another question: whether TX School IPM rules have helped respondents’ departments get needed administrative support for their school IPM programs.
		- 58% agree to strongly agree.
	+ Changes in pest control tactics, 2005-2016:
		- Baits went up by 10%, IGRs by 4%, pyrethroids went up by 1.5%, glyphosate went down by 2% (glyphosate numbers may be uncertain, however).
		- Monitoring is now mandatory, most districts (75%) are currently implementing it.
		- Vacuuming went down by 5%.
		- Baseboard spraying went up by 2%. ULV use indoors went up slightly, power spraying the perimeter went down slightly.
	+ Annual budgets for pest control
		- From 1993 to 2016, budgets for pest control have not changed much.
		- 1A districts, 1-2 campuses, less than 1000 kids. $35-40 a month for pest control contractor.
			* The industry lesson here: the low bid wins the day, and everyone undercuts everyone.
		- Only 20% of schools don’t have a licensed applicator on staff. 80% do.
			* For budgets, most schools don’t attribute caulk, door sweeps or maintenance towards pest control budget. Only pesticides.
	+ Q&A
		- Are the cost figures in this presentation adjusted for inflation?
			* Janet was unsure whether they are.
		- Would initial investments in School IPM in 2005 lead to lesser costs in the 2016 data?
			* It could. E.g., Plano ISD, TAMU’s home school district, hasn’t grown that much since 2005. The buildings have changed, but it’s the same amount of people. The budget hasn’t changed.
		- What exactly are they not tracking?
			* They’re not tracking peripheral/maintenance/secondary costs of IPM. They don’t consider it a part of their IPM program.
1. **Regional updates**
* **Kathy Murray:**
	+ Plans are in place for wrapping up the Cornell project, including field days with school districts.
	+ Kathy recently received a grant from the Northeastern IPM Center. It’s for a two-year project with school nurses and the Stop School Pests (SSP) modules
		- Kathy requested help identifying school nurse groups in the Northeast.
* **Matt Baur**:
	+ Matt explained that he brought to the IPM Centers the idea of the article about DIY/home remedy pesticides which are considered to be lower, not as hazardous – he proposed the idea of developing a white paper, with the Centers taking the lead.
		- There was not a ton of support on preparing this – the Center directors thought this might be an interesting subject, but don’t want to lead.
	+ Paul Jeppson offered to help, because he read the notes from the Center directors’ meeting. Paul has toxicological data sets on home remedies being proposed on internet.
	+ Janet: The crucial issue is products with labels vs. products without a label – letting people know that if people make pesticidal homebrews, this is what can happen.
		- This subject is the bread and butter of Pesticide Education Safety Coordinators – they’ll whip this out if someone just approaches them.
	+ The National Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) may have resources on risks associated with DIY products.
	+ Sherry Glick is part of a group (EPA Center of Excellence on Regulatory Issues) – the group might also be able to tap into them.
	+ The Stop Pests program might also have some resources available.
	+ Carrie Foss suggested that the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship program and Wayne Buhler of North Carolina could help.
		- There are lots of groups that could take something like this on.
		- Carrie offered to help identifying a person or a group that would take this on, and said she can help with that.
1. **Suggested agenda items for next month’s call**

The next conference call will take place on **Friday, April 21st**. Future calls will continue to fall on the third Friday of each month at **1:30 PM Central time**. Please send Alina or the new call coordinator, Frank Laufenberg (flaufenberg@ipminstitute.org) any updates, announcements or other agenda items for April’s call.