

# School IPM 2015

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

School IPM 2015 Newsletter: November 2009

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### IPM Award Winners

The School IPM 2015 Working Group is pleased to announce the 2009-2010 Childcare and School IPM Recognition Awards. For a list of honorees, please visit [our website](#).

### Upcoming Events

View this newsletter in [HTML](#) or [PDF](#) form.

### 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 with a number of pests, such as cockroaches, mice, dust mites and more.

School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a prevention-based, highly effective approach to reducing the number of pests in your school without relying on pesticides. This 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](http://www.schoolipm2015.com).

### → Equipping Schools to Fight the War on Bugs

How many schoolteachers know that German cockroach ootheca contain 40 eggs ready to hatch or that many over-the-counter head lice products do not eliminate lice eggs? In South Dakota, teachers in the Brookings and Flandreau School Districts are learning about IPM in their school thanks to the School IPM 2015 project and the hard work of local school staff.

With help from university extension IPM specialists Erin Bauer, Darrell Deneke, Jon Kieckhefer, Clyde Ogg, Mark Shour and Jim Wilson, the two participating districts (three buildings in Brookings School District and the K-12 under one roof in Flandreau School District) each underwent an assessment. These assessments gauged pest management performance by evaluating each school's pest vulnerable areas including structural "skin", roof, kitchen, teachers' lounge and trash disposal area for pest entrances, hiding places and food sources. The IPM specialists provided technical support as the schools made specific improvements such as setting monitoring stations, installing door sweeps, and filling in holes and cracks with sealant. Both districts have undergone two assessments since February 2009, with three more to take place before June 2010.

Communication and training for school staff is a key component to the program. The IPM specialists collaborated to host a one-day training workshop geared toward custodial and food service staff, in which approximately 50 participants learned about the principles and importance of IPM. This training also included a "school walk-through", a tour led by IPM specialists through pest vulnerable areas of the

Dec. 8-9, 2009:

School IPM Coordinator Training, training led by Texas AgriLife Extension; Garland, TX. [More information](#)

Dec. 13-16, 2009:

Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, including a symposium on the past, present and future of IPM; Indianapolis, IN. [More Information](#)

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

school, which served as a hands-on learning experience for school staff. A few months later, a one-hour in-service training for more than 300 teachers and secretarial staff introduced participants to IPM and described their role in making IPM implementation a success. Additionally, two district-wide school IPM newsletters were distributed to 525 combined district staff; two more editions will be released prior to June 2010.

When asked how to foster IPM enthusiasm among school officials, Mark Shour says "engage their pest management company", and that's exactly what the South Dakota IPM team has done. IPM specialists clarified with each school's pest management professional (PMP) that IPM practices are not meant to replace PMP services, but rather encourage a safer, cost-effective method of controlling pests and protecting the health of school children and staff.

The Brookings and Flandreau School Districts provide excellent examples of how school IPM programs can engage school officials, teachers, facility & kitchen staff, PMPs and parents to collaborate through what Dr. Shour describes as a "streamlined process" to reduce pest problems and pesticide risk in a cost-effective way. The School IPM 2015 initiative and regional working groups can help your school district do the same by connecting you with training resources and IPM experts in your area. For more information, visit [www.schoolipm2015.com](http://www.schoolipm2015.com).



## Bed Bug Myth Busters: How You Can Use IPM to Prevent and Control Bed Bugs

Bed bugs are big news. Bed bugs were a common pest prior to World War II and nearly eradicated during the era of DDT pesticide use (1940s and 50s). However, bed bugs are now a serious challenge domestically and globally. This year, the New York Daily News reported almost 10,000 bed bug complaints in New York marking a 34% annual increase. This resurgence is largely attributed to increased frequency and diversity of international travel and pesticide resistance.

### What's for dinner? We are.

Adult bed bugs are one quarter-inch long, flat, oval, rust-colored insects that spend much of their time in the cracks and crevices located near their food source: humans. This includes along the seams of mattresses, floor boards, couches, movie theatre cushions and even clothes from a thrift store or yard sale. Bed bugs emerge at night while people are asleep, feed on human blood and return to their hiding places, a process that only lasts less than 15 minutes.

Bed bugs do not transmit diseases but are elusive nuisances that can easily be transported in suitcases, purses or backpacks, making control a challenge. Bed bugs often elicit reactions of disgust and panic which can lead to serious misconceptions of how bed bugs should be treated and excessive and incorrect pesticide applications. To help us crack common myths about bed bugs, we consulted experts from the Central Ohio Bed Bug Task Force (COBBTF) and the New York Department of Education.

**Myth #1:** Bed bugs are only found in messy, cramped living spaces such as apartment buildings and dorms.

**Myth Buster:** While a messy, cramped living space can provide additional habitat for bed bugs, they can also be a problem in tidy houses, hotel rooms, classrooms and anywhere else humans reside. Bed

bugs can be easily spread from an infested room in luggage, suitcases, purses or backpacks, making awareness of monitoring, prevention and control essential for all pest managers and key facility staff. For example, if a bed bug is brought to school in a child's backpack or employee's briefcase, it can make itself at home in a desk or relocate into a nearby backpack or briefcase to end up in a new house or apartment.

Michael Siciliano of the New York Department of Education says that because bed bugs "live in diverse neighborhoods with different housing arrangements", it is critical that you take measures to eliminate bed bugs at home while working with your children's school to do the same.

**Myth #2:** If a bed bug is found on a child, that child and his/her possessions must immediately be sent home to prevent further spread of the insect.

**Myth Buster:** Bed bugs spend little time on humans. If a bed bug is found on a child, it is likely that the insect came from his/her or another student's backpack or the bed bug's hiding place in the school. Rather than sending the child home, COBBTF recommends discreetly removing the child from the classroom and have the school nurse inspect the child's clothing and other belongings as well as any storage areas the child uses. Send a [note](#) home to parents informing them of the problem and describing basic preventative actions, such as washing laundry on high heat and keeping school supplies sealed in a plastic bag or tote. Finally, the school principal or designee should notify the in-house or contracted pest management professional (PMP) to identify where the bugs are harboring and use the safest, most effective methods to eliminate them from the school environment.

**Myth #3:** If bed bugs are present in the school, the entire school must be treated with a heavy-duty pesticide to ensure they're all dead.

**Myth Buster:** Pest management professionals can identify exactly where the insects are harboring and use non-chemical and/or least-toxic chemical methods for eliminating the pests. For example, bed bugs emit a foul yet subtle odor which trained dogs can detect and use to pin-point their location. Likewise, pest management professionals can vacuum affected areas or heat-treat rugs, clothes, books and other items to eliminate the pests.

Eliminating and preventing bed bugs in schools requires a careful collaboration between parents, children and school staff to ensure bed bug problems at home are not causing bed bug problems at school and vice versa. For more information on how to prevent or control bed bugs, check out the following resources.

Central Ohio Bed Bug Task Force. 2009. <http://www.centralohiobedbugs.org/index.html>.

Gangloff-Kaufmann, J. and J. Shultz. 2003. Bed Bugs Are Back! An IPM Answer. New York State Integrated Pest Management Program. 5 pp. [http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/extra/bed\\_bug.pdf](http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/extra/bed_bug.pdf) (PDF).

Lewis, V. R., L. Greenberg, J. H. Klotz. 2009. Bed Bugs: Integrated Pest Management In and Around the Home. Pest Notes, University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program. Pub 7454; 4 pp. <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PDF/PESTNOTES/pnbedbugs.pdf> (PDF).

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. 2009. Stop Bed Bugs Safely. <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/vector/vector-faq1.pdf> (PDF, in English). <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/vector/vector-faq1-sp.pdf> (PDF, in Spanish).

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### IPM VOICE: A New IPM Advocacy Group

IPM VOICE will be an advocacy group that harnesses the intellect, enthusiasm and goals of IPM professionals across the country to promote progressive IPM. It will serve as a public voice to political leaders to ensure that IPM is adequately funded and supported.

The idea of IPM VOICE was inspired in part by the attendees of the 7th International IPM Symposium in March 2009. Jim VanKirk, one of the driving forces behind the group's development, noted that being at a symposium with 700 other IPM professionals from all walks of life clearly highlighted the tremendous potential for coalescing common interests for the betterment of IPM.

VanKirk commented that while many people like IPM, not many decision-makers have it as a top priority. "The goal of this group," he said, "is to not see IPM's number-two status as a problem, but rather as an opportunity to create a political and economic environment where IPM has even more meaningful impact."

At the center of the group's mission statement will be two core issues. First, IPM VOICE will support progressive, science-founded and effective IPM, and will encourage researchers to find new and better ways of using and implementing IPM. Second, the group will welcome diverse approaches to progressive IPM and will encourage members to keep IPM advancement at the forefront of their agendas.

IPM VOICE is in its developmental stages. The current group will determine governance, define clear and focused goals, and create a roadmap for future work by early 2010. Your questions and feedback are welcome and will aid in creating a sustainable entity that is meaningful to its members and the public. For more information about IPM VOICE, please email [Jim VanKirk](mailto:Jim.VanKirk@ipminstitute.org).

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### Regulatory Committee Forming

Join the School IPM 2015's Regulatory Committee and help support effective school IPM policies and legislation on a regional, state and/or federal level.

The new Regulatory Committee seeks individuals within or familiar with federal, regional and state regulatory agencies including USDA, US EPA, pest management enforcement agencies, and state or local Departments of Agriculture, Environmental Protection, Health, Education, etc., and other individuals and groups working on school IPM legislation.

This October, on its first bi-monthly teleconference call, the Regulator Committee reviewed existing state IPM regulations and heard an update on federal legislation efforts from Gene Harrington of the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) and Mike Page of the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO). To help educate politicians and facilitate effective rules and regulations, the committee plans to create an article that describes best practices for regulators

and policy makers.

For more information or to join the committee, email [Zach Bruns](#) or call (608 232-1410). For more information on additional volunteer committees, visit School IPM 2015's [Get Involved webpage](#).

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Published by the Steering Committee for School IPM 2015. Please [click here](#) to send comments and questions.



The School IPM 2015 Initiative | Sent by IPM Institute of North America, Inc. | 4510 Regent St. | Madison | WI | 53705