**School IPM 2020 Steering Committee Conference Call Notes for May**

Monday, May 2, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CST

1. **Roll:**

* **Sherry Glick, Carrie Foss, Dawn Gouge, Lynn Braband, Matt Baur, Joe LaForest, Amanda Crump, Shaku Nair, Janet Hurley, Matt Neff**

1. **Pest Management Strategic Plan (PMSP) update**

* The IPM Centers are working to review the updated PMSP before posting it on the National Regional site. It is currently an agenda item for the next Center director meeting.
* The question was asked when the group should check in with the IPM Centers about the PMSP to see that it’s posted. The group agreed there needs to be coordination to be sure the ball is not dropped. The review for this should be fairly quick, not more than a month.
* It should be OK to distribute this document within IPM working groups, as no major changes are foreseen.

1. **Individual/Region updates (group)**

* **Janet Hurley/Texas A&M Agrilife**:
  + EPA Webinar with Dawn and Janet on Tuesday, May 10 to debut Stop School Pests & iSchool Pest Manager. Don’t miss it! Webinar info: <http://bit.ly/24A4HAY>
  + Two weeks ago, Janet, Fudd Graham, Faith Oi and Blake Bennett sat down with Joe LaForest to work on the new smartphone app. There is a tab for images, a tab for description for each pest, and a third tab for IPM solutions – screens to swipe through on this tab, with physical and mechanical controls, sanitation, and exclusion. It goes into IPM steps in detail.
    - E.g. for ants, “don’t spray, baiting is the first step!”
  + 112-115 tabs total that are being worked on including ants, roaches, spiders, with a whole breakdown for each. The app blends content from the Southern & Midwestern Field Guides into one handy smartphone app.
  + eXtension: eXtension is going to stay around, they have been penciled back in for funding. Fire ant and invasive ant groups are going to start working together. The pesticide safety group is looking for a place to house their info. It’s hoped that eXtension can help get information out as part of an overall effort to be more visual.
  + Janet is looking for Community IPM leaders—anyone who would like to help run a national committee.
* **Sherry Glick/EPA**:
  + Thanks to Janet and Dawn for presenting on the webinar on May 10! There is a May 17 EPA webinar on ants, the number one pest in schools: <http://bit.ly/24uHofm>
  + The EPA pest management roundtable is taking place Wednesday, May 25, in Washington DC. Over 21 organizations influencing school IPM are invited. It’s a very high level event. The EPA Administrator has invited Michelle Obama, but it’s unknown if she’ll make it yet.
  + Thanks everyone for the well wishes, Sherry has recovered from pneumonia.
* **Matt Baur/Western IPM Center**:
  + Amanda Crump is the new director at the Western IPM Center, and today is her first day on the job. Amanda expressed her excitement at working with everyone.
* **Lynn Braband/Northeast**:
  + USDA-funded project with Cornell’s horticulture department, a collaboration between New York, Connecticut and Maine, investigating overseeding to improve athletic fields is ongoing. Lynn is a worker on it, not intimately involved. The goal was to have 50 athletic fields involved with the project, which is currently in the middle of its projected timeline. This summer will have midpoint workshops—Kathy Murray is best person to talk about that.
  + The Northeastern School IPM Working Group is functioning on a networking basis on its every other month conference calls. The last call was April 21 and the next call is June 9.
  + Lynn is planning to give a presentation on the ongoing goose IPM project. Geese are a slip and fall hazard for athletic fields. The project group has been doing educational workshops, neighborhood collaborations to reduce resident geese populations.
  + Lynn has a factsheet in the works specifically on geese on school athletic fields – still in draft stage, but Lynn can send the text to anyone who’s interested.
* **Sherry Glick left the call.**

1. **USDA-NIFA announces $4 million in grant funding**

* The group discussed proposal ideas for the recently announced USDA-NIFA IPM grant funding.

1. **Any suggested agenda items for next month’s call? (group)**

Next call: **Monday, June 6 at 11:30am CST**