

School IPM 2015

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

School IPM 2015 Newsletter: September 2009

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Upcoming Events

Oct. 7, 2009: [eXtension](#)
National Web Conference.
Contact: Fudd Graham,
Auburn University

Oct. 23-26, 2009: [School IPM 2015](#)'s Southern Region IPM Working Group hosts booth at the Association of School Business Officials' National Meeting; Chicago, IL. [More Information](#)

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Setting an Example: Ascension Parish School System, Louisiana



[Ascension Parish School System](#) in southern Louisiana is the first school district in the state to host a full-scale IPM demonstration project, complete with school "crawl throughs", intensive monitoring and sanitation and exclusion improvements.

With help from Southern Region School IPM Working Group members including Dale Pollet and Dennis Ring from Louisiana State University, Fudd Graham of Auburn University in Alabama and Janet Hurley of Texas AgriLife Extension, Ascension Parish is taking a more preventive, comprehensive approach to reducing pest complaints and pesticide use.

"Louisiana has had for several years a program of reduced pesticide use in schools," states program lead Dale Pollet of LSU, which was "designed to reduce the amount and range of pesticides used in the school environment." Since working with Drs. Pollet and Ring in early 2009, the district has expanded the focus of their IPM program to include prevention, monitoring and education.

Under a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act (PRIA) grant to the IPM Institute and the four regional school IPM working groups, three schools in the district are now Louisiana's first Demonstration Site, where they receive technical assistance from the Southern Region Working Group to implement IPM methods as an example for surrounding school districts.

Since joining the initiative in March 2009, the three pilot schools have improved their schools' IPM programs by using the latest information on pest biology, ecology, prevention, and control, as well as evaluation tools to assess the current level of pest pressures and IPM usage.

Southern Region Working Group members review model IPM policies in Texas, Florida, Alabama and North Carolina to brainstorm program components that might fit their own district's needs.

Ascension Parish's immediate goals are to "set up evaluations at the schools to show what needs to be addressed to reduce the attraction to

* Nov. 17-18, 2009: A US EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program Annual Conference, including community IPM breakout session; Arlington, VA. [More Information](#)*

Nov. 18-19, 2009: Texas Statewide School IPM Coordinator Symposium; San Marcos, TX. *School IPM coordinators nationwide are welcome to attend!*

[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](#)

and entrance of pests into schools" notes Dr. Pollet. He says that reducing pests to tolerable levels and reducing the use of pesticides are really the ultimate goals of IPM adoption. "Thanks to the new School IPM initiative, Louisiana has a chance to improve the schools' IPM programs."

A more long-term goal for the program in Louisiana is to show other school districts and their pest control operators that IPM is not only feasible but practical, healthier and cost-effective. So far, this goal is making headway. After only six months of beginning their IPM program overhaul, multiple school districts in Louisiana have expressed interest in learning more about Ascension Parish's IPM program. Team members are ready and happy to oblige.

Contacts:

[Dale Pollet](#), Department of Entomology, Louisiana State University, 225 578-2180.

[Dennis Ring](#), Department of Entomology, Louisiana State University

→ Allergen Testing - The Salem-Keizer School District Story



In elementary science classes, children learn that the air we breathe is comprised mostly of nitrogen and oxygen and traces of other gases. One school district in western Oregon is testing what other hidden air particles its children and staff inhale on a daily basis - and in some cases, can cause serious reactions.

The [Salem-Keizer School District](#) is one of multiple locations identified in the United States where School IPM Working Group members and school facilities staff seek to measure and demonstrate positive health-related effects of IPM adoption in schools. With funding from the EPA PRIA grant, School IPM Western Region Working Group members conducted a thorough sampling of dust particles in elementary and secondary schools to identify asthma-triggering pests present in the school environment.

Asthma is epidemic across the United States, affecting 6% of children nationally and up to 25% in some urban areas (Centers for Disease Control, 2006 - www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/asthma/pdf/strategies.pdf, Nicolas et. al., 2005*). It is the number one cause of school absences in the US. Asthma often results from or is triggered by cockroaches, mice and other pests, as well as certain pesticides used to reduce their numbers. The cost of treating this health condition in children under the age of 18 is \$3.2 billion each year in the US alone (Centers for Disease Control, 2006 - www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/asthma/pdf/strategies.pdf). When US EPA and University of Michigan conducted a 2008 study (http://asthma.umich.edu/media/ahop_autogen/AHOP_2-21-08.pdf) on 400 asthma reduction programs, they found that those which addressed environmental factors (such as

pest levels) demonstrated the greatest health-related outcomes, including reduced emergency room visits, improved quality of life and fewer missed days of school.

In June 2009, a pilot school selected by the Salem-Keizer School District underwent tests for a wide range of allergens, including those from German cockroach, dermatophagoides mite (commonly known as house dust mite), dog, cat, rat and mouse. Led by Tim Stock of Oregon State University and collaborator Dawn Gouge from the University of Arizona Maricopa Agricultural Center, the project team collected allergen samples, and results showed few allergens to be detectable--none at levels likely to impact human health.

Tim Stock (OSU) invited IPM experts from Arizona, Indiana, Ohio, Utah and Washington to collaborate as the implementation team. OSU has hosted several regional School IPM events at this point and plans to expand implementation efforts rapidly.

School administrative, food service, custodial and maintenance staff will work with the IPM implementation team to implement prevention-based measures, including installation of door sweeps and replacing cardboard boxes with plastic storage bins. Additional tests to measure allergen levels post-IPM adoption will occur next summer.

"Reducing allergen burden in the school environment will benefit asthmatics, reducing environmental triggers, accompanying asthma symptoms, and asthma-related school absenteeism," states Tim Stock of OSU. This means that kids will no longer be able to use "But Mom, I think I'm allergic to school!" as an excuse to stay home.

Contact:

[Tim Stock](#), IPM Education Specialist, Oregon State University

*Reference: Nichols, S.W., B. Jean-Louis, B. Ortiz, M. Northridge, K. Shoemaker, R. Vaughan, M. Rome, G. Canada, V. Hutchinson. 2005. Addressing the childhood asthma crisis in Harlem: the Harlem Children's Zone Asthma Initiative. AM J Public Health 95(2):245-9.



New School IPM Outreach Committee Forming

The idiom "Good things come to those who wait" may work for dessert, the bus and a raise, but it doesn't apply to worthy projects which need your help! The School IPM 2015 initiative has a variety of opportunities for you to invest your time and talents, one of which is the Outreach Committee.

The Outreach Committee is charged with coordinating and issuing communications and announcements, maintaining a national contact database (good for all of you social butterflies), and organizing School IPM related events. Committee members will also be responsible for updating the School IPM 2015 communication strategy which outlines the goals, timeline, key stakeholders and messages to make high-level IPM a reality in all of our public schools by 2015.

The committee members may include those from any field of work or study, especially those with experience in media and outreach. For more information on and to sign up for the Outreach Committee, please contact Zach Bruns of the IPM Institute by email or at 608-232-1410. For more information on additional volunteer committees, visit the School

IPM 2015's [Get Involved Web Page.](#)

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



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