



National School IPM 2020 Steering Committee Conference Call Notes for August 17th

Please send additions, omissions or other corrections to jcooper@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 **August 17th, 2018**.

Roll

- Julian Cooper, IPM Institute
- Madeline Zastrow, IPM Institute
- Dave Colbert, Xcluder Rodent and Pest Defense
- Weston Koennecke, Xcluder Rodent and Pest Defense
- Drew McFadden, Xcluder Rodent and Pest Defense
- Kathy Murray, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
- Dawn Gouge, University of Arizona
- Tom Green, IPM Institute
- Shaku Nair, University of Arizona
- John Connett, University of Wyoming
- Fudd Graham, Extension Specialist, Auburn University
- Joe LaForest, Southern IPM Center
- Janet Hurley, Texas A&M Dallas Agricultural Research and Extension Center
- Luci Li, University of Arizona

Agenda

1. Guest Speaker: Dave Colbert from Xcluder Rodent and Pest Defense
2. Regional updates (group)
3. Agenda items for next call (group)

1. Guest Speaker: Dave Colbert from Xcluder Rodent and Pest Defense

- Xcluder made by company called GMT
 - Steel wool
 - The original product was a fill fabric and early adapters were pest control companies
 - Demand from commercial facilities, especially food plants and storage facilities
 - As they learned more about rodents, they developed their products to tailor to rodent biology
 - In the past few years, they have received more demand from schools
- Schools are the perfect environment for rodents
 - Typical school conditions are tailor-made for rodent problems
 - Geography
 - Regular food service
 - Regular deliveries – food and other
 - Unoccupied rooms
 - General uncleanliness
 - Lots of bathrooms
 - Lots of utility lines



- Garbage/refuse
 - Storage and clutter
 - CPS IPM policy – chemical control shall only be used after other methods, i.e., exclusion, have been taken.
- Xcluder’s goal: the more they can get schools to act proactively rather than reactively, the better off the state of pest management.
- Xcluder fill fabric
 - Can be cut by shears
 - Stainless fiber and polyester fiber
 - Wear gloves
 - Fabric comes in rolls or blocks
 - Keeps rodents from getting in or out to cut off paths and make tools to trap more successful
- Tested by Dr. Gary Witmer in CO - clear that rodents can’t breach through metal. Xcluder deemed as an effective material.
- Door sweeps
 - Damaged, gnawed, worn or missing door sweeps are one of the most common entry points for mice, rats and other pests
 - Xcluder door sweeps feature patented fill fabric
 - Easy to install
 - Many varieties of door sweeps
 - An experienced installer can install a door sweep in under 10 minutes
 - Xcluder offers training videos on installation
- Vertical astragal seals that can accommodate different designs of doors
- Threshold gap seals
 - It’s common that metal-frame glass doors have a gap at the threshold where the doors meet
- Xcluder offers lifetime guarantee on door sweeps
- Garage and overhead doors
 - X2 retainers
 - Fill fabric laminated to the exterior rubber
 - Interior brush sweep to eliminate tiny gaps, blocks light and insects
 - Multiple size and shapes and lengths of sweeps
 - Very successful in helping food plants and storage facilities to keep rodents out
 - Slide-N-Seal
 - For overhead doors and dock levelers
 - Retainers can be added to leveler’s sides
 - Can work with existing brush retainer
 - Vertical Slide-N-Seal
 - Will not work if door or dock plate is bent or damaged
- Cinder Block Caps
 - Rodents can nest inside the building’s concrete hollow block walls



- Block Caps fit most common concrete building blocks
- Fraction of the cost of cement filling/finishing work
- Will not rust
- Xcluder Geo Landscaping Fabric
 - Coarse stainless-steel fibers bound to porous geotextile form an impenetrable barrier against burrowing pests
 - Allows grass and small plants to grow through
 - Tree pits and plants, sports fields, national historic sites, outdoor theaters, parks, etc.
- F.I.T. – Frye Inspection Tool
 - Developed by Matt Frye, PhD, Cornell University
 - An indispensable tool for facility managers
 - A tool that has different measurements to show if holes/gaps/cracks can be breached by rodents. There is one end of the tool for mice and one for rats.
- Questions/Comments
 - Tom Green
 - Cost could be a concern. What do you have available that could compete with the ROI of a competing sweep?
 - Dave Colbert: Dock leveler kit can be bought for under \$500 but installation labor costs vary. Xcluder has taken steps to minimize cost as much as possible.
 - Helpful for people in schools to lay out costs in fact sheet.
 - Julian Cooper: How does Xcluder respond to smaller pests like flying pests or insects?
 - Dave Colbert: Focus is primarily on rodents but there is anecdotal evidence that it works for other pests.
 - Kathy Murray: How do Xcluder door sweeps hold up to winter temperatures, ice and frost-heaving? Door sweeps often have to be replaced because of winter damage, not rodent-breaching damage in schools in Maine.
 - Dave Colbert: Stainless steel and rubber does well in extreme heat or cold, as well as water. Does not rust or disintegrate.
 - Tom Green: Do you sell direct or through distributors?
 - Dave Colbert: We sell direct to schools and institutions and through different distribution companies for PMP industry. We prefer to deal directly with schools and universities because we want to make sure installation is done right. Usually communicate with facility managers.
 - They can contact GMT/Xcluder directly for sales.
 - DaveC@gmt-inc.com or sales@gmt-inc.com
 - 847-495-4700
 - Tom Green: What kind of training for door sweep installation do you have?
 - Dave Colbert: PDF or instructional videos are available.

2. Regional Updates



- **Western region**

- Dawn: We have received multiple requests for assistance from schools with American cockroaches, and fire ants this month (quite typical as schools return after summer closures). Significant monsoon activity has resulted in ample opportunities for mosquitoes, fire ants, and weeds to flourish.
- We are once again investigating opportunities to fold the County Extension locations into the School IPM Inside & Out program to 1) have the county sites as IPM demo locations for local schools, 2) foster county-based involvement, and 3) we should be doing it anyway.
 - Lynn: Over the years, we have frequently partnered with county extension agents on school IPM related outreach, including workshops and demonstration projects. Several counties have also done work under our Community IPM small grants program (offered when we have the budget for it). We really do not have a systematic, on-going program that focuses on partnering with counties on school IPM. Also, Our extension system is de-centralized; each county association chooses the programs to be involved with (not dictated from Cornell). Not all counties have the educators or budget to be involved with school IPM outreach. Also, whenever we do programming, we inform the extension association of that county. Besides being proper protocol, it provides them an opportunity to be involved.

- **Southern region**

- TX has asked Janet to look at enhancing Green Category, no easy way to look through EPA at category 4 products.
 - Dawn and Tom will investigate

- **Northeast region**

- **Northcentral region**

- Julian Cooper: Clyde Wilson gave updates on EPA initiative to assess environmental health issues that were of concern for children and elderly in tribes ND and SD.
 - Biggest issues for tribes:
 - ✓ Meth contamination
 - ✓ Mold
 - ✓ Lead-based paint
 - ✓ Clutter
 - ✓ HANTA virus
 - ✓ Infrastructure issues: (water, sewage, lead in drinking water, water damage)
 - ✓ Asthma biggest health concern (20-25% of population affected by asthma)
 - ✓ Problems with winterization
 - ✓ Pest control concerns
 - Asthma stats are striking, 2.5 x the national average. What causes high level of asthma?
 - ✓ Wood-burning stoves in housing
 - ✓ High density of smoking
 - ✓ Combined with strong reliance on pesticides as control
 - ✓ Triggers not being addressed



- Draft Strategic Plan for IPM out for internal EPA review. Each of 10 regions reviewing and collecting comments until end of August to finalize plan in September. Strategy is flexible from region to region. Regions able to identify IPM issues in schools, communities, agriculture or vector-borne to determine how they want to respond. Presentation at NC IPM Center Stakeholder Panel in September to give updates.
- Ruth Kerzee reviewing SIPM in IL and KS. Talked yesterday with Julian, opportunity to add a “State Resource tab with IL specific training to SSP website. Could include other states as materials become available. Hopes to get funding from IL gov to help maintain website, but uncertain. She is submitting a proposal Sept. 6 and the IPM Institute is providing a potential budget and other figures to back up her.
- MPAC Lawn & Land Forum in Milwaukee on October 29th

3. Agenda items for next call (group)

Send suggested agenda items for next month to jcooper@ipminstitute.org! **Next call on September 21st.**

- Marc Lame will talk about his recent experiences with Lyme Disease.

The coordination of the National School IPM Steering Committee is supported by funding of the USDA North Central IPM Center. The next conference call will take place on **Friday, September 21st**. Future calls will continue to fall on the third Friday of each month at **1:30 PM Central time**.