



National School IPM Steering Committee

March 15th, 2019

Participants:

1. Julian Cooper, IPM Institute of North America
2. Madeline Zastrow, IPM Institute of North America
3. Thomas Green, IPM Institute of North America
4. Janet Hurley, Texas A&M Dallas Agricultural Research and Extension Center
5. Fudd Graham, Extension Specialist, Auburn University
6. John Connett, University of Wyoming
7. Tim Stock, Oregon State University
8. Kathy Murray, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
9. Lynn Braband, Cornell University
10. Debra Marvin, New York State IPM
11. Matt Bauer, Western IPM Center
12. Mark Leshner, EPA Region 7
13. Bethany Olsen, EPA Region 7
14. Susannah Reese, StopPests in Housing

Agenda:

1. Stop Pests Presentation - Susannah Reese
2. NE Partnership Grant - Lynn Braband
3. Member updates

1) StopPests in Housing – Susannah Reese

- Pests travel back and forth between schools and homes, so School IPM and IPM in housing are interconnected and overlapping topics
- StopPests program has been around since 2007, started as Train the Trainer organization
 - <http://www.stoppests.org/>
 - On-site training for housing staff
 - Focus on rodents, cockroaches and bed bugs
 - Wide variety with pest knowledge backgrounds
- StopPests successes
 - Doing very well with site recruitment
 - 3-5 trainings/month
 - Recruitment tools
 - Word-of-mouth through housing authorities, conferences, HUD
 - Work with housing that have failed HUD inspections, referred to regional office, and then referred to StopPests
 - Housing finds them from negative media coverage/lawsuits. Susannah tries to work with housing proactively to avoid this.

- Work closely with organizations connected to tribes
 - People have found them through online resources and website. Blog gets a lot of attention, more unique visitors than the website. People find them from Google searches.
 - Webinars are a big recruitment tool
 - Ranges from 300-1,000 participants
 - Hot topic on bed bugs brings in more viewers
 - StopPests reviews all records, pesticide application, service tickets to provide technical assistance
 - Working with large housing authorities, i.e., New York City, Baltimore
 - Name/assign an individual IPM Coordinator to carry out responsibility and leave lasting impacts after training
- StopPests challenges
 - Bad contracts, scope of service
 - Reference to IPM in contracts indicates the person who wrote it does not know IPM.
 - Need a more developed checklist to ensure contractors are practicing IPM
 - Reviewing RFPs for pest control takes a lot of Susannah's time
 - No oversight of contracts
 - Example: contract included regular bed bug inspection, but contractors were not inspecting for bed bugs because residents did not like them to go into their bedrooms.
 - Not enough electronic recordkeeping
 - Handwritten records can be hard to read or get put away and never looked at again
 - One size fit all is not effective
 - Going to the same number of apartments the same times is not giving you an accurate representation
 - Need buy-in from property management or administration. Higher-ups must embrace IPM to make a long-term change or impact. Property managers play a key role in adopting IPM and overseeing contractors.
 - No licensed applicators on staff. Outside contractors not taking enough time to solve the problem.
 - StopPests tries to promote IPM non-chemical approaches be adopted by in-house maintenance staff even if they are not licensed applicators.
 - Encourage outside contractor to attend StopPests training to gather their expertise and get them on board with IPM
 - How do we evaluate? How do we know what impact our trainings and resources have?
 - Long-term measurement of success is difficult
 - Measure by
 - Reduced number of infestations?
 - Variable based on housing or season
 - Reduced pest counts in traps?
 - Difficult if no in-house staff to check traps
 - Reduced cost?
 - Initial investment is high
 - Pest complaints
 - Not always accurate
 - Need good inspection system
 - Pre-survey and Post-survey
 - Working with evaluation specialist to improve pre and post survey
 - Expenses

- Example: Xcluder door sweep more expensive than cheaper, ineffective sweep
 - Mice
 - Not enough exclusion
 - Not enough awareness that mice are living and reproducing inside already
 - Difference between regular service and mouse cleanout service
 - You can't just deal with severe mouse infestation with regular service, e.g., two snap traps and glue board
 - No easy answers to solve infestation
 - Getting everyone on board to attend training is difficult
 - Managers, staff, residents, contractors
 - Blame game
 - Who is to blame? Contractors? Contract writer? Managers? Residents?
 - Residents usually get wrongfully blamed
 - Fears and misconceptions around pests
 - Self-treaters
 - Staff think they can solve the problem with bug bomb, etc.
- Comments/Questions
 - Lynn Braband: NY State IPM Conference in 2020 focusing on school IPM and connection between schools and homes
 - Kathy Murray: StopPests in Housing absolutely resonates with school IPM, especially school nurses. School nurses would like resources for students to bring home to prevent pests from re-entering school. Kathy would like feedback from Susannah on what information would be good to include in school nurse recourses, e.g., letter to parents. Collaborate more, share more resources and templates.
 - Tom Green: Do you have notes you could share? Who funds and who started the StopPests in Housing training? IPM Institute and StopPests in Housing worked with multifamily housing in Madison and they are now working to replace their buildings to redesign with pest control in mind = success story.
 - Susannah will send notes.
 - Funded by HUD, USDA, also works with NE IPM Center at Cornell University
 - One of the only steadily-funded projects from HUD for pest control
 - Started through HUD with a focus on asthma. Target pests were cockroaches and mice.
 - Bed bugs became more of a problem in housing so focus shifted to bed bugs
 - Susannah tries to connect with a local office, extension service, organization to be involved in the training so housing can have somebody to stay connected to after StopPests in Housing leaves
 - Kathy Murray: Do you work with Section 8 housing?
 - Yes, StopPests works with elderly housing and tribal housing
 - Work with project-based section 8 housing not voucher-based
 - Kathy: How do you address proper rodent cleanup in training?
 - Want them to use their contractor when they do rodent cleanup
 - Disputes with rodent cleanup
 - Staff says residents need to cleanup if it's in the apartment
 - Susannah's rule:
 - Apartment appliances = staff's responsibility
 - Resident personal belongings = resident's responsibility
 - Wet down before using HEPA vacuum – keeps airborne particles down
 - Uses CDC recommendations as training resource
 - Tom: Cost per training?
 - 10-60 people, depends
 - Biggest cost is food

- Trainer daily rate
- Training partner
- Travel
- \$3,000 or more
- Tom: It's great that you tapped into a consistent source of funding. That's been a constant problem for School IPM.

2) **NE Partnership Grant – Lynn Braband**

- NE SIPM WG received a NE IPM Communications Partnership Grant to upgrade the School IPM Best Practices website
- History: in 2013 received another grant from NE IPM Center to develop website, School IPM Best Practices for northeast US
- Project Manager: Debra Marvin, NY State IPM
- Julian distributed key excerpts from the grant, see email
- Working with evaluation specialist at NE IPM Center to develop evaluation of focus group exercises
- Communications Partnership Grant RFP requires that products from the grant be evaluated by stakeholders and peer reviewers
 - Working group can function as peer reviewers to evaluate the new website
- Stakeholder focus groups in key states
 - NY, ME, MA, MD
 - Interact with website and evaluate
 - Using focus groups to develop regional priorities
- NE SIPM WG has been relisted on NE IPM Center website under funded projects
- Kathy Murray: Altering format to make it more useable or updating content so it's up-to-date?
 - Lynn: That will be one of the major questions initially for the focus groups
 - Original idea was not to create content, but looking for existing best content to host on the site

3) **Working Group member updates**

a. **North Central Region**

- i. Julian, IPM Institute
 1. Future Pest Defense trainings at NEA ESP conference in Las Vegas and with Women for a Healthy Environment in Pittsburgh.
 2. Shaku Nair is not on the call but was just in NV serving as an expert witness for a new bill to mandate IPM training for 10% of school staff. Bill was supported by our partners in the NEA, could serve as a model legal framework for other legislative pushes across the country.
- ii. Marc Lame
 1. Training Monroe County Community School Corporation
 2. Will be hopefully doing a training for school nurses in several counties on bed bugs this spring

b. **North Eastern Region:**

- i. Lynn Braband
 1. NE SIPM WG received a NE IPM Communications Partnership Grant to upgrade the School IPM Best Practices website
- ii. Kathy Murray
 1. Wrapping up school nurse project
 - a. Tick kits with neoprene, fact sheets, wallet cards sent to NJ EPA for school nurses
 - b. Let Kathy know if you would like to distribute tick kits, fact sheets or wallet card
 2. More school IPM bills coming forward in ME, will keep us posted

c. **Western Region:**

d. **Southern Region:**

- i. Janet Hurley
 - 1. Spring Rodent Academy coming up in two weeks
 - 2. Helped Susannah and StopPests in El Paso, TX
 - 3. School IPM trainings coming up in April
 - 4. Bill to ban use of glyphosate and neonicotinoids on school grounds
 - a. Janet does not see it moving forward, but it's interesting that it popped up

The next School IPM National Steering Committee call will be April 19th at 1:30 PM CST. We will be discussing the multiple Rodent Academies currently being run across the country and will hopefully also hear from Dawn Gouge about her Xcluder results.