

**ASPCRO Bed Bug Committee  
Committee Report  
August 29, 2010**

**Members:** Matt Beal, Ohio Department of Agriculture (Co-chair); Liza Fleeson, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Co-chair) Dr. Timothy Drake; Clemson; Steve Dwinell, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Julie Spagnoli, FMC; Norm Goldenberg, Terminix; and Bob Rosenberg, NPMA.

The Bed Bug Committee (Committee) met on April 5, 2010 in conjunction with ASPCRO's Mid Year Meeting in Charleston WV. Attendees: included: Bonnie Rabe, New Mexico Department of Agriculture; Steve Dwinell; Bob Rosenberg; Davis Daiker, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; John Scott, Colorado Department of Agriculture; Grant Bishop, West Virginia Department of Agriculture; Derrick Lastinger, Georgia Department of Agriculture; Mike Page, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Jonathan Berger (BASF); Julie Spagnoli; Tim Drake; Carl Falco; Norm Goldenberg and Liza Fleeson. The following Committee **action items** were identified during the April 5, 2010 meeting:

1. Draft Mission Statement;
2. Confirm Willingness of EPA to Accept Additional Data in Section 18 Decision Process;
3. Draft Survey of State Lead Agencies;
4. Review 2010 Bed Bug Survey Results Regarding the Specific Needs Of Industry; and
5. Determine Status Of Request for Proposal for EPA's Environmental Justice Funding.

The Committee also met via conference call on June 10, 2010. Participants include Tim Drake, Jonathon Berger, Julie Spagnoli, Bob Rosenberg, Bonnie Rabe ; and Liza Fleeson. **Additional actions items** include:

6. Label Language Review of "Bed Bug" Products;
7. Article Summarizing 2010 Bed Bug Survey Results; and
8. Annual Meeting – Bed Bug Session

The status of each of the above action items is as follows:

**Mission Statement:** The mission stated was drafted and forwarded to the Committee for comments on June 4, 2010. The final mission statement was forwarded to ASPCRO on June 10, 2010.

*To assist State Lead Agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency and other stakeholders as they address the issues surrounding the re-emergence of bed bugs as a pest of concern by facilitating dialogue among stakeholders; identifying data gaps and mechanism to gather data; serving as a clearinghouse for resources & developing resources as necessary and keeping abreast of both Federal and State initiatives, legislation and other activities.*

**Section 18 Propoxur** Discussions continue regarding the Emergency Exemption request. Based on the current risk assessment and the data gap that exist, EPA did not approve the Section 18. Possible next steps in support of the request included a discussion of 1) the willingness of the EPA to consider additional data, for example, oral or inhalation exposure, should it be available or generated, and 2) a survey of States for any incident or misuse data. EPA has indicated a willingness to consider additional information. Currently, Lois Rossi is waiting for a quality assurance review of the EPA generated propoxur exposure data collected from an indoor application test. Draft sampling and ambient air protocols have been developed should additional data be appropriate. Both Florida and Ohio indicated a willingness and ability to generate additional data.

**Survey to State Lead Agencies** The Committee discussed the draft a survey of the Membership to gather current information as it relates to bed bugs. Initial discussions identified the following information to be gathered in the survey of Member States: Type of research currently being conducted; Incidences of misuse; Types of products being used including 25b products; Types of treatment options currently being used; Use of bed bug dogs; Identification of state lead agency for "bed bugs"; Current pending or proposed legislation; and Outreach & Education activities.

The EPA as well as the Federal Bed Bug Workgroup has indicated an interest in reviewing the survey prior to distribution and being provided with the results of the survey. In addition, the Federal Bed Bug Workgroup has a current list of researchers and is in the process of compiling a bibliography of peer-reviewed research that has been conducted since 1966.

**2010 Bed Bug Survey results regarding the specific needs of industry** The Committee completed its review of the NPMA 2010 Bed Bug Survey, specifically, of Question 41 *Are there any resources or actions that your state pesticide regulatory agency could take that would assist with the bed bug problem? (e.g. consumer education, industry training, enforcement, registration, etc.)*. In summary, there appeared to be some confusion among many respondents with regard to how pesticide registration decisions are made. Answers reflected that many felt registration decisions could be made at the state level and not by the US EPA. The majority of respondents, who felt registration of pesticides to be the answer, requested the re-registration of old pesticides, many of which have not been used for years. The majority of the answers that fell into the Regulatory/Enforcement category requested strengthening of existing regulations and implementation of new control regulations for bed bugs. A significant percentage of respondents felt that the most important measure a regulatory agency can take to assist with this problem is to provide education and outreach to the public. A significant percentage of respondents believed that state regulatory agencies could assist with solving the bed bug problem in the US.

**Status of EPA's Environmental Justice Funding Opportunity** To date, the RFP has not been released. The original release date was anticipated in the May/June timeframe. The anticipated release date is currently the end of August.

**Label Language Review – Bed Bug Products** An initial review of products labeled for bed bugs was completed and forwarded to the Committee on August 16, 2010. NSPIRS was utilized to identify the list of products currently registered for that use. Initial results indicate label statements can vary greatly between products. Upon receipt of the review summary, the Committee will review the information and determine possible next steps. The EPA has indicated they are currently undertaking a similar effort and are interested in our results.

**Article Summarizing 2010 Bed Bug Survey Results** An article summarizing the aforementioned survey results was drafted and forwarded to NPMA. This summary will appear as a sidebar in a special insert to September's PestWorld with the bed bug survey results.

**Annual Meeting – Bed Bug Session** The session entitled “*Bed Bugs...Still Crawling Around...*” is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1 from 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM. Speakers include Susan Jennings, EPA; Alison Taisey, Cornell University; Bob Rosenberg; and Liza Fleeson (Moderator). The session is planned as follows:

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- Bob Rosenberg – *Highlights of 2010 Bed Bug Survey* (10 minutes)
- Liza Fleeson – *Virginia's Bed Bug Outreach & Education Project* (10 minutes)
- Allison Taisey – Title TBD (20 minutes)
- Susan Jennings - Title TBD (20 minutes)
- Q & A (15 minutes)

In addition, Committee Members have participated in a variety of activities in support of the Committee's mission including the Federal Bed Bug Workgroup Meeting on August 10, 2010. The Workgroup was interested in the activities of the Bed Bug Committee including the planned survey of States. The Workgroup is comprised of representatives from the CDC, DoD, EPA, HUD, NIH, USDA-ARS, USDA-NIFA.

Future priority activities of the Committee include 1) the development of a survey instrument for State Lead Agencies; and 2) review of label language for bed bug products.