

**ASPCRO Bed Bug Committee  
Annual Committee Report  
August 28, 2011**

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

The Bed Bug Committee (Committee) met via conference call and email throughout the year. Priorities for 2010-2011 included 1) the development of a survey instrument for State Lead Agencies; 2) the development of a testing protocol for bed bug products; 3) creation of clearinghouse of State Lead Agency resources; and 4) review of label language for bed bug products. The following items reflect current Committee activities and status:

**ASPCRO – Survey of States** – The Committee finalized the survey and released it on June 27, 2011 with a closing date of July 15, 2011. Prior to release, the survey was reviewed by the Boards of ASPCRO and AAPCO (including SFIREG Environmental Quality Issues Working Committee) as well as the Federal Bed Bug Workgroup for comment. Based upon the comments received by the reviewers, including a large number of suggested additional questions, it was decided to survey State Lead Agencies in phases asking the most basic questions, including if the SLA is willing to participate in future surveys, in the first phase and building future surveys after analysis of the data. Bob Rosenberg and NPMA prepared and hosted the electronic survey through SurveyGizmo. A total of 42 (84%) of State Lead Agencies responded. Of those States that responded, 98% indicated a willingness to participate in future surveys. Tim Drake is completing the analysis of the survey results. Liza Fleeson will be presenting the preliminary survey findings during the Annual Conference.

**Testing Protocols** – Issues related to the efficacy of “bed bug” products continue to be part of the discussion including the need to develop testing protocols that could be used by States, Registrants and the EPA. A Joint ASPCRO/NPMA Bed Bug Efficacy Workgroup has been formed with the expressed goal of developing product performance guidelines and testing protocols for conventional and exempt pesticides including: products with claims to kill on contact; products with claims for residual control; products with claims to kill eggs; 25(b) products; and, repellents. Components of the bed bug efficacy recommendations will include the following: which products are covered by the recommendations; what standards these products have to meet; what test conditions are acceptable to demonstrate that the products meet the standards; and what label language is acceptable for product claims based on the test results. The Workgroup developed a questionnaire which was distributed to researchers to gather information regarding the development of efficacy standards and testing protocols. Workgroup members include Committee Members, Researchers; and representatives of the regulated industry. The Workgroup will hold its first face to face meeting August 29, 2011 in concert with the Annual Meeting.

On a related note, the EPA provided to the Committee a summary of those products that are currently registered for bed bugs including any efficacy data that was submitted in support of the registration. Preliminary review indicates the data to be of limited utility to State Lead Agencies or the general public. Further review of the data is planned.

**Clearinghouse for Resources** – Liza Fleeson, Julie Spagnoli, Bob Rosenberg and Steve Dwinell attended the Summit on February 1 – 2, 2011 in Washington DC. The purpose of the Summit was to update the attendees on the progress made since the first Summit held in April, 2009, and to identify the next steps in the process towards developing a National Strategy to address the resurgence of bed bugs. ASPCRO was invited and presented an overview of the Bed Bug Committee’s current and future activities during the session dedicated to the “Initiatives and Roles of Local/State/Federal Governments. One of the items repeatedly identified by participants as needed is a clearinghouse of resources for stakeholders. In keeping with the Committee’s mission which includes *“serving as a clearinghouse for resources & developing resources as necessary”*, the Committee unanimously agreed to offer assistance to EPA and facilitate the collection of currently available State Lead Agency resources. In May 2011, the EPA notified the Committee that they were ready to “test” the vetting process for the clearinghouse and

requested the Committee's assistance in submitting resources for consideration. Virginia submitted 26 bed bug fact sheets (13 each in English and Spanish).

On a related note, ASPCRO's Survey of States included questions regarding what resources are currently available including links to those SLAs with dedicated web pages. This information will be compiled and made available through the ASPCRO website. It will also include SLA contact information.

**Label Language Review – Bed Bug Products** - An initial review of products labeled for bed bugs was completed and forwarded to the Committee (August 2010) and refined (September 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 and the opportunity to improve label language may exist. The Committee intends to work with ASPCRO's Label Language Committee to further review the language and identify those areas of improvement. The Committee discussed the possibility of petitioning the EPA to issue a Pesticide Registration Notice should improved label language be identified. This would allow registrants to file for label language changed through notification. The EPA has indicated they are currently undertaking a similar effort and are interested in our results.

**In addition**, to the above, Committee Members have participated in a variety of activities in support of the Committee's mission. NPMA, working through its Blue Ribbon Bed Bug Task Force, published its Best Management Practices (BMPs). ASPCRO Members participated in the Blue Bed Bug Task Force representing State Lead Agency perspectives in the development. The Board formally recognized NPMA's BMPs at its mid-year meeting. A link will be provided from the website. Currently several states link to the NPMA's BMPs and some have either or are considering incorporating by reference the BMPs into regulations. BMPs can be accessed at

[http://www.npmapestworld.org/publicpolicy/documents/NPMABedBugBMPAPPROVED20110124\\_prettified.pdf](http://www.npmapestworld.org/publicpolicy/documents/NPMABedBugBMPAPPROVED20110124_prettified.pdf)

Committee Members also participated as a presenter at the NPMA National Bed Bug Forum: A Solutions Conference (Broomfield CO, January 4-8, 2011). Additional activities include participation in the EPA Region Bed Bug Coordination/Communications Workgroup as well as the Federal Bed Bug Workgroup Conference Calls. Committee Members also met with EPA in conjunction with the mid-year meeting to discuss related items including 1) development of testing protocols; 2) bed bug clearinghouse; and, 3) bed bug label language review, each of which is addressed above.

The Committee is scheduled to meet on August 27, 2011 as part of the Annual Conference. In addition to the above items the agenda includes the following topics for discussion:

- EPA's Bed Bug Efficacy Data
- Data Gathering –Propoxur Sec.18 and other alternative products
- Heat Treatment – Issues Discussion
- 2012 Priorities

The Committee will meet from 4PM to 6 PM in Magolia 1.

[Submitted by Liza Fleeson 8/15/11]