

**ASPCRO Bed Bug Committee
2013 Mid Year Committee Report
March 4-5, 2013**

Members: The Bed Bug Committee welcomed Dudley Hoskins, RISE, and Jonathon Berger, BASF, as new members during the reporting period. Committee members also include: Jung (Woogie) Kim, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Jim Warneke, Orkin Pest Control, Steve Sims, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Karn Manhas, Terramera, Inc., and Gabriel Lee, Terramera, Inc.; 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, Exponent®, Inc, Norm Goldenberg, Terminix; Bob Rosenberg, NPMA, and Liza Fleeson, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Chair).

The Bed Bug Committee (Committee) met in conjunction with the 2012 Annual Meeting, the 2013 Mid-Year Meeting as well as via email. Committee priorities moving into 2012 included 1) the development of a dedicated webpage to provide not only information about the Committee to Members and the general public, but, links to, for example, resource materials including fact sheets and NPMA's Best Management Practices; 2) distribution of the final results of the Phase 1 Survey and development of the Phase 2 Survey Instrument for State Lead Agencies; 3) the development of a testing protocol for bed bug products; 4) creation of a clearinghouse of State Lead Agency resources; 5) review of label language for bed bug products; and 6) hosting an ASPCRO EPA Training to include bed bugs; 7) prophylactic treatment for bed bugs; 8) development of treatment specific fact sheets, for example, heat treatment; and 9) alleged health issues from heat treatment. The following items reflect current activities and status for those priority areas:

Bed Bug Webpage The Committee submitted the introductory information to appear on the dedicated Committee webpage as well as an initial listing of links and additional documents to be posted. The Communications Committee continues to work on the newly designed website and the development and population of Committee web pages. Once the information that has been submitted to date is available, the Committee will review the webpage and forward additional materials as appropriate.

ASPCRO – Survey of States Phase 1 & Development of Phase 2 – Phase 1 Survey – the final draft report was submitted to the Board at the 2012 Annual Meeting for final comments and subsequently distributed to the Membership. With the completion of the Phase 1 Final Survey Report, the Committee has done a preliminary review of draft questions that were proposed, however, not included in the Phase 1 Survey and has begun the development of the Phase 2 Survey. As with the Phase 1 Survey, preliminary input into the Phase 2 Survey was requested from both the Federal Bed Bug Workgroup as well as SFIREG's Environmental Quality Issues Working Committee. These groups, in addition to AAPCO, will have additional opportunities to comment on the Phase 2 Survey.

Testing Protocols – On March 6-7, 2012, EPA convened a FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) to receive expert opinions and recommendations on the design and scientific soundness of its “*Draft Product Performance Test Guidelines OCSPP 810.3900: Laboratory Testing Methods for Bed Bug Pesticide Products*”. This guideline describes approaches to efficacy testing procedures, test methods, data reporting and evaluation of testing results for Section 3 bed bug pesticide product registration. ASPCRO provided written and oral comments to the SAP. In summary, ASPCRO concurred with the proposed methods and trusts that the final product of this process will address concerns regarding the efficacy of new conventional bed bug pesticide products, however, did offer additional summary comments to the Panel including 1) the need to address efficacy for not only those pesticides that are currently registered but also those that are exempt from federal registration remains; 2) the lack of insect availability and high costs associated with maintaining those colonies; and 3) loss of resistance in bed bug strains maintained in the lab overtime.

The Committee continues to monitor the process for the “*Draft Product Performance Test Guidelines OCSPP 810.3900: Laboratory Testing Methods for Bed Bug Pesticide Products*”. An update at the 2013 Annual Meeting is planned.

On a related note, the Committee continues to believe that ASPCRO needs to maintain our efforts to have the EPA address efficacy of 25b products labels for bed bugs and continues discussions with EPA regarding future efforts.

Finally, the Bed Bug Committee has been asked to provide comments on the recently released “*Product Performance Data Needs for Pesticide Products Claiming Efficacy against Invertebrate Pests Of Significant Public Health or Economic Importance*”. This is a joint effort with other Committees including the Termiticide Standards Committee.

Clearinghouse for Resources– One of the outcomes of the EPA's National Bed Bug Summits was the clear need to provide a “Clearinghouse” for bed bug related outreach and education materials. ASPCRO offered its assistance in the development of the Clearinghouse and received materials from 15 Members which were forwarded to the EPA. These and other materials will be available via the Bed Bug Committee's dedicated webpage once it is fully developed. The Committee intends to request additional items from Member states including resource material, links to SLA dedicated bed bug pages and contact information.

The Committee has also received comments or concerns regarding EPA's Clearinghouse and the information presented. Of particular concern is the list of products and the general public's perception as it relates to these products, for example, safe; efficacious; approved etc. The Committee did inform the EPA of the general concerns and offered their assistance with the review of the website. EPA has indicated their willingness to accept comments or suggestions from the Committee.

Label Language Review – Bed Bug Products - The Bed Bug Committee early on identified bed bug label language as one of the items or issues that needs to be addressed and worked with ASPCRO's Label Stewardship Committee to identify particularly problematic label language with the expressed goal of recommending or providing alternative language. A draft document was developed which identifies "problematic" language and offers "preferred" language. The Label Language Stewardship Committee requested that the Committee conduct a final review of the document, in particular, the comments in the margins, prior to it being finalized. The Committee intends to provide any final comments. It is anticipated this will be submitted to EPA mid-March. A meeting with EPA is planned to determine the future direction of this living document.

Prophylactic Treatments for Bed Bugs

At the 2012 Annual Meeting, Stephen Kells, University of Minnesota, provided information regarding prophylactic treatment for bed bugs, specifically, as part of an Integrated Pest Management Program, in select locations, for example, hotels, low income housing and shelters. Dr. Kells requested the Committee's assistance with the protocol including review, distribution and acceptance by the States. The Committee agreed to review the protocol and provide comments to Dr. Kells. It was noted during the Committee Meeting held during the 2012 Annual Meeting, that in general, EPA does not support prophylactic treatments and that the risk profile would have to allow it. The protocol has not been received to date.

Development of Treatment Specific Fact Sheets

The need for non chemical treatment/detection fact sheets was discussed, for example, heat; steam, cold, canine scent detection and vacuuming during the Committee. In addition, the question of who the target audience is for the fact sheets was raised and if they would be separate documents or one document which included basic information about each with additional resources provided. It was decided that ideally any information developed or provided would be appropriate for multiple audiences. It was suggested and agreed that the most appropriate starting point would be to see what resources are currently available (for example, fact sheets) and determine what if any additional materials may be needed. The information could be provided to interested parties through our dedicated webpage.

Heat Treatments – Potential Health Issues

The issue of alleged health risks associated with the use of heat treatments was presented to the Committee during the 2012 Annual Meeting. One heat equipment manufacturer had suggested that unless persons performing heat treatments use the scrubbing/filtration devices it sells, the treatment method generate unhealthy levels of particulate matter/off-gassing. The Committee did additional research on this issue and was unable to find data validating the concerns. At this juncture, the Committee does not see a role for ASPCRO and will place this issue on "hold" pending any additional information.

Priorities for 2013

The following priorities were identified for 2013: development of Phase 2 Bed Bug Survey instrument; review and comment on EPA's Bed Bug Webpage; continue coordination with the Label Language Stewardship Committee & assistance to SLAs with bed bug specific label issues; participate in dialogue with EPA regarding 25b products; and monitor the development and participate as appropriate in the processes for both "*Draft Product Performance Test Guidelines OCSPP 810.3900: Laboratory Testing Methods for Bed Bug Pesticide Products* and *Product Performance Data Needs for Pesticide Products Claiming Efficacy against Invertebrate Pests Of Significant Public Health or Economic Importance*."

Respectfully submitted,



Liza J. Fleeson
Chair - Bed Bug Committee