



ASPCRO Pest Management in Schools Committee Midyear Meeting Report

Date: April 16, 2024

Location: Via Teams

Attendees: Janine Runfola (Colorado Dept of Ag), Emily Pochubay (MI Dept of Ag), Tim Stock (Oregon State University), John Pitcock (KY Dept of Ag.), Andrea Sonnen (OR Dept of Ag), Seth Dunlap (AK Dept of Ag.), Michael Kelly (TX Dept of Ag), Allison Cuellar (TX Dept of Ag), Robert Thompson (TX Dept of Ag)

Topics:

1. Informational white paper on pesticide applications at schools
2. School IPM Survey
3. Mission of Committee and Future Activities Discussion
4. Open Discussion

White Paper on Pesticides & Children

The white paper is a high-level informational document on how pesticides are evaluated and use patterns are determined. The committee reviewed the final draft of the white paper, currently titled *Pesticide Use in Schools: Information for Parents, Teachers and School Personnel*. Committee members also reviewed a final draft with Texas-specific information to demonstrate on the document could be used by SLAs. Committee members provided input on revisions to the current draft and discussed the potential inclusion of information like teachers not applying pesticides to control pest infestations. When reviewed by the Board and approved, the document will be available on the ASPCRO website as a committee document.

Survey

The draft survey was reviewed by the committee. Feedback was provided to make collect contact information when completing the survey in the event an SLA wants to reach out to ask questions about another SLA. The intent is to send the survey out to ASPCRO members and compare responses with the last survey completed by ASPCRO more than a decade ago. From discussion, there is a wide array of priority of school IPM in various states with some states having dedicated staff and others needing. The committee was encouraged to contact Pesticide Safety Education Programs (PSEP) working in school IPM arena prior to sending the survey out to SLAs. Tim advised is a PSEP workgroup that has been working in the recent past on materials, but he is unsure of the status. The committee will use this survey to determine how the committee can continue the

committee's mission: to assist member states with the improvement and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles and concepts in schools in the interest of promoting and protecting Children's Environmental Safety. The survey can also help SLAs seeking to implement new policies and procedures related to school IPM to contact SLAs that may have insights on the process.

Mission of Committee and Future Activities Discussion

The committee discussed the ASPCRO Pest Management in Schools mission statement: The ASPCRO Pest Management in Schools Committee's mission is to assist member states with the improvement and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles and concepts in schools in the interest of promoting and protecting Children's Environmental Safety. Committee discussed the mission statement and discussion was had about possibility of extending the scope of the committee's purpose to include daycares. After discussion, it was determined the committee should focus on schools.

During additional discussion, there was talk of contacting National Pesticide Safety Education Center (NPSEC) to see what information they may have related to supporting school IPM. NPSEC's function was discussed. NPSEC supports PSEPs and any materials they may have been made either for a particular PSEP or NPSEC is printing and distributing on behalf of the PSEP.

During open discussion, there was discussion of common issues seen in pest management in schools and the challenges SLAs face in regard to school IPM. There was no additional discussion.