



## ASPCRO Pest Management in Schools Committee Meeting Report

**Date:** August 12, 2024

**Location:** Via Teams

**Attendees:** Brad Smith (KY Dept of Ag), John Pitcock (KY Dept of Ag.), Seth Dunlap (AK Dept of Ag.), Allison Cuellar (TX Dept of Ag), Michael Kelly (TX Dept of Ag), Robert Thompson (TX Dept of Ag), Janet Hurley (TX A&M AgriLife Extension), Tim Stock (Oregon State University School IPM Program), Emily Pochubay (MI Dept of Ag.), Megan Striegel (NPMA)

**Topics:**

1. NPMA
2. Survey for IPM Programs in Schools
3. White paper on pesticide applications at schools
4. New Business/Activities Discussion - What is needed?
5. Open Discussion

### NPMA Survey

Megan introduced the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) and what NPMA does. Megan also introduced the project NPMA is undertaking to get a broader understanding of what exists state by state in law and rules related to pest management in schools. NPMA hopes to share this information with ASPCRO if it is helpful. The survey is intended to help members as a quick guide to understanding the varying requirements by state. The survey topics were reviewed with attendees.

### 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 completed work on the paper, titled *Pesticide Use in Schools: Information for Parents, Teachers and School Personnel*. The Board reviewed and approved the paper in June 2024. The final document was shared with committee attendees to be utilized by the state. The final document included a document modified with Texas' IPM in school requirements as an example of how the document can be utilized. The final document will be available on the ASPCRO website as a committee document for use by SLAs, tribes, or territories.

### ASPCRO IPM in Schools Survey

The draft survey had been revised (added questions related to inspections completed and enforcement actions) after feedback from Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) members. The survey additions were reviewed and modifications to response options were updated and a few corrections were made. The intent is to distribute the survey to ASPCRO members and compare responses with the last survey completed by ASPCRO more than a decade ago. 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.

#### Open Discussion

The committee discussed departments of education and what funding they provide to schools for IPM and to maintaining school buildings for the purposes of pest exclusion. Tim provided background information related to Oregon's funding for school buildings. When they funded programs to test for levels of lead, asbestos and similar environmental health issues at schools, they included school IPM. This elevated school IPM in Oregon; however, funding and levels of activity for school IPM in Oregon related to the department of education is limited. Other states were not aware of level of activity of various education departments in their state. ASPCRO will look into discussing school IPM and the school envelope at the national level with Department of Education as much as feasible.

There was no additional discussion for new business.