

Missouri School Integrated Pest Management Project

Pests and pesticide use in schools can result in unhealthy indoor and outdoor environments, especially among sensitive populations such as children. Integrated pest management (IPM) is a strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems through a combination of practices such as regular pest population monitoring, site and pest inspections, an evaluation of the need for pest control, occupant education, and structural, mechanical, cultural, and biological controls.

Representatives of the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the Missouri Center for Safe Schools participated in a 4-state regional training on IPM at Iowa State University in March 2004. As a result of that training, Missouri submitted an application to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program grant to implement IPM practices in Missouri schools.

Grant Problem Definition:

- Develop indicators of safe pest management practices.
- Increase awareness of integrated pest management.

Grant Project Goals:

- Develop an example school pest management policy and promote it with school districts.
- Provide good resource support for schools practicing integrated pest management:
 - Website
 - Training programs
 - Safety Coordinators
 - Regional IPM Site Manager Training and Custodian Train-the-Trainer
 - State Training Program for Applicator Licensing
 - 2-hour IPM Component in summer school custodian training (for all 5 sites)
 - Video development for use in local training
- Integrate this initiative with existing Indoor Air Quality initiatives
- School liability reduction through risk management

The grant timeline was reviewed:

- Oct-Nov 04: Formulate the state workgroup and meet with the workgroup to outline stakeholders' needs and receive input to develop a survey (done)
- Dec 04-Jan 05: Develop the survey instrument (done)
- Jan 05: Distribute the initial survey (done)
- Feb 05: Evaluate the survey results (done)
- Mar 05: Meet with the workgroup to present survey results and receive input on the need for promotional material and website (done)
- Apr-May 05: Develop promotional material, website, and promotional letter from education and agriculture leaders (working)
- Jun 05: Meet with workgroup to present promotional material and website design
- Aug 05: Distribute promotional material
- Aug-Oct 05: Completion of regional training for district safety coordinators and make presentation at the Missouri Association of School Business Officers conference (done)

- Dec 05-Jan 06: Identify four pilot school districts (one inner city, one suburban, one large town, one rural) for future use in developing pilot programs
- Feb 06: Develop follow-up survey for training participants
- Apr 06: Evaluate survey results
- May 06: Prepare final grant report

The accomplishments to date:

- Mar 23-25, 04, the Missouri delegation attended the Midwest School Integrated Pest Management Workshop at Ames, Iowa
- Mar 25, 04, briefed the Advisory Board, Missouri Center for Safe Schools on the proposal for an IPM initiative and received support
- Aug 30, 04, submitted EPA grant proposal “Implementing Integrated Pest Management Practices in Missouri Schools”
- Oct 4, 04, EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program Grant accepted
- Nov 2-Dec 8, 04, presented 9 regional trainings on IPM to school district safety coordinators and conducted a survey of participants
- Dec 16, 04, IPM for Schools Workgroup initial meeting
- Jan-Feb 05 Surveyed 171 members of the Missouri Pest Management Association
- Feb 24, 05, IPM for Schools Workgroup meeting
- Apr 27, 05 MOASBO Conference presentation
- *The Advocate*, newsletter of the Missouri Pest Management Association, Vol 6 Issue 3, July 2005, included the article “Pest Management Practices in Missouri Schools” which publicized the results of our February 2005 survey of pest management professionals.
- All members of the committee received a copy of the book *A Worm in the Teacher’s Apple: Protecting America’s School Children from Pests and Pesticides*, by Marc L. Lame, 2005, AuthorHouse, Bloomington, Indiana.
- Bob Watts presented on IPM as part of the regional school custodial workshops at 5 locations throughout Missouri during June and July 2005.
- Russ Thompson presented IPM as part of the regional school nurse workshops at 6 locations throughout Missouri in September 2005.
- An IPM booth with newly developed brochures and literature will be displayed at the annual Missouri Plan Managers Association Conference, October 2005. Judy Grundler will also provide a 45 minute conference presentation.

For more information about this project go to the Missouri Department of Agriculture website at www.mda.mo.gov/Pest/ipm.htm, contact the Missouri Center for Safe Schools at (816) 235-5656 or thompsonrs@umkc.edu. The Missouri Department of Agriculture point of contact is Judy Grundler at (573) 526-0837 or judy.grundler@mda.mo.gov.