

Project type: Implementation

Title: Alternatives to Pesticides Workshops for County, Municipal, and School Properties

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Cooperator(s):

Abstract: Fifteen paired 1 hour workshops, initial and follow-up, on *Alternatives to Pesticides* will be given at Suffolk County owned or managed facilities covering non-toxic pest management for indoor pests and for outdoor pests. The project provides hands on training and resources free to county, municipal or school employees who manage facilities under Pesticide Phase Outs. Pest Management Procedures manuals designed for low or no pesticide use, an introduction to a new portion of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County website specifically developed for pesticide phaseouts and a copy of the QuikPest reference card with magnifier will be provided.

Background and Justification: Suffolk County and Cornell Cooperative Extension have assumed joint leadership roles in non-toxic pest management. In September of 1999, the Suffolk County Legislature passed County Code Chapter 380 (L.L. 34-1999) mandating a phase-out of pesticides in County buildings and properties by the year 2003. Liability, safety, and public health concerns were factors contributing to the legislation. Currently, the only pesticides that can be used on Suffolk County properties are those that are specifically exempted in the law, or those for which the Pesticide CAC has approved a special use exemption. Structural repairs are the most important cultural control in pest management. However, each year more repairs are needed for County buildings and less are funded due largely in part to lack of funds, materials and labor. This is also true for municipal facilities and schools. Of particular concern are access points for water, stinging insects and vertebrates. An emphasis on education through county targeted pest management procedures guides will allow teaching modules to target the few key pests specific to each building and to effectively prioritize which structural defects will most likely result in pest access and should therefore be addressed first. Cultural management should be emphasized from an internal and external standpoint including repairs of leaking pipes, caulking cracks and other gaps and reducing voids suitable for nesting and building entrance as a bare minimum. The increase in access points is directly related to cash and labor flow issues due to the economic downturn. The purpose of this proposal is to step into these voids with educational programming and recommendations for minor physical repairs and easy IPM techniques that can help to bridge the gap (sometimes literally) until major, more permanent repairs and policies can be made.

Education will also target audiences such as vendors present on county, municipal or school properties or private groups who hold meetings on county properties because it is often unclear to them what their responsibilities towards pest management are.

Objectives: 1. Educate employees and building managers at Suffolk County owned or leased properties about the County Pesticide Phase-Out Law. Educate employees of municipalities and schools with limited pesticide use or pesticide phase outs.
2. Provide simple, easy to use resources both at hand and on-line geared towards county property pests and problems, emphasizing identification and cultural controls.

3. Additionally target education to outside users such as vendors and group who rent county, municipal or school facilities.
4. Evaluation of which IPM tactics will be adopted on site and which will be adopted at home.

Procedures: 1. 15 one hour paired programs will be conducted at Suffolk County owned or leased facilities to acquaint participants with new and accurate ways to identify and measure pest threats as well as ways to avoid or reduce pest problems and use of pesticides.

2. Present free, comprehensive resources to participants including pest management procedurals expressly designed for limited use of pesticides or pesticide phaseout, specimen collection and examination materials, and a quick reference card.

3. Target facility vendors and outside interest groups by offering free resources that can help them with pest problems on all sites that they are located and help them to understand how they may be facilitating pest problems at their meeting or work sites..

4. Evaluation will occur by pre-and post workshop surveys and the success in the short-term will be measured through willingness to adopt a new IPM tactic both in the workplace and at home. By surveying participants about the number of people they work with on a routine basis, we will be able to ascertain how many people our educational programs reached indirectly.

Outcomes/Impact as of December 2012:

Magnifiers ordered, received, distributed along with fine tweezers for pest manipulation and ID

Quikpest completed in rough copy, distributed to completed workshops with promise to send clean copy when printed

Website: 149 factsheets completed, 26 more done but need editing, 35 need still to be written, mostly on weed control

- mass printing of spreader calibration card to be handed out to all educational contacts

Workshops outreach, given and planned (there will actually be more than 15 pairs once we are done):

Two completed for Suffolk County department of health

One completed for Headstart

Two completed for third police precinct, Bayshore

Two completed for BNL

Two completed for Bayard Cutting Arboretum

Two completed for SCCC Riverhead

Two scheduled for SOAR schools program, rescheduled due to hurricane for 2013

Two completed for SC parks dept

Two scheduled for Nassau County Vector, rescheduled due to hurricane for 2013

Two scheduled for Nassau Boces, rescheduled due to hurricane

Commitment from Town of Shelter Island, no firm dates

Interest from Town of Brightwaters, no firm dates

Two completed for County Police Headquarters Yaphank

Commitment from SCCC Brentwood, no firm dates

Commitment from SCCC Ammerman, no firm dates
Commitment from Greenport Schoolsboth for 2013
Interest from Suffolk Boces, no dates yet
Commitment from BOMARC SC police unit firing range C-561, no firm dates
Commitment from EVOC police unit C-203, no firm dates
other SC townships contacted: Southhold, Southampton, Riverhead, Brookhaven, East Hampton, Islip, Huntington, Babylon
Port Jefferson schools contacted,
Hauppauge schools contacted,
Strong interest from Sachem schoold, no dates yet
Holy Angels school contacted,
Central Islip school district contacted,
Sayville school district contacted,
Riverhead school district contacted
Westhampton beach school district contacted
Hauppauge Industrial Park (county property rented, under phase out),
Suffolk County Farm staff, interest, no firm dates yet
SC Gabreski airport commitment, no firm dates
SC DPW one completed
Suffolk County fire training academy contacted
Bethpage Sportspark, county rental under phaseout, commitment for 2013

Critical Dates (Provide dates for prospective milestones/goals or objectives):

As of Dec 31, 2012, seven workshop pairs are complete, two workshop first installments complete. We have a number of reschedules and holds due to hurricane issues but we expect to schedule and complete these in the first 7 weeks of 2013 plus additional pairs from interested parties.

IMPACT STATEMENTS from exit surveys

93 % of workshop participants felt that the workshops exceeded their expectations

Out of a survey of what pests were most valuable to learn about, 6% responded rodents, 25% bedbugs, 5% fleas, 12% bees, 25% ants, 5% stink bugs, 12% termites, 5% ticks, and 5% carpet beetles

100% of survey respondents replied that they thought some of the knowledge they gained from the workshop would help them to make changes to the success of their reduction of pesticide applications

94% of survey respondents said that they planned to change their current practices based on information gathered from the workshop.

When asked about specific things they would change, a sample of the common survey answers was as follows:

- checking hotels for bedbugs
- checking for open spaces to admit pests

- checking house foundation dirt touching wood
- look to see what kind of pest I am dealing with before I take action
- natural methods
- screens