

1. Title: Integrated Pest Management Training in pesticide applicator areas: Structural & Rodent and Food Processing

2. Project Leader(s): Walt Nelson, CCE, MC

3. Cooperator(s): Lynn Braband, NYS IPM Program, Elizabeth Berkeley horticulture diagnostic lab CCE, MC

4. Abstract: Pesticide applicators in structural and food processing categories regularly contact CCE, MC seeking both certification training and recertification training venues. NYS DEC pesticide inspectors and Lynn Braband concur that such training is lacking in Upstate NY. This industry segment is challenged, in the Greater Rochester area, in obtaining instruction, certification and recertification in these areas. CCE, MC contracted for category specific training and prepared the CORE training in house, both curriculums emphasized IPM principles and practices. Using the NYS DEC list of certified applicators in the appropriate categories, direct mail notification of a 30-hour training was offered during the winter of 2009. Applicator training appears to be satisfied by firms making the applications, contrasting the view of those in NYS DEC, IPM and CCE, MC as interest in the training was lacking.

5. Background and justification: Pesticide applicators in structural and food processing categories regularly contact CCE, MC seeking both certification training and recertification training venues. NYS DEC pesticide inspectors and Lynn Braband concur that such training is lacking in Upstate NY. Using IPM principles and practices in structural and food processing situations is environmentally and socially responsible and the intentions of the FQPA.

6. Objectives:

1. Respond to pest control industry demand for local certification and recertification opportunities with a program meeting this request.
2. Align the program response with the emerging 'green strategies,' embracing a paradigm shift emphasizing preventive measures, considering action thresholds and reducing risk with the use of softer methods and materials.
3. Develop 30-hour program for pesticide certification that includes pesticide recertification credit within the IPM framework.
4. Differentiate the agenda from a traditional 7A & 7F training and emphasize IPM.
5. Recruit a mix of qualified instructors including IPM educators, Cornell staff and industry practitioners.
6. Market the program utilizing school district, municipal, association contacts, known firms working in the arena of structural and food processing pest management and existing structural and food processing pesticide license holders.
7. Present topics to the target audience during the first quarter of 2009.
8. Survey attendees prior to and following training in assessing knowledge change.
9. Interview program participants three to five months after the program assessing pest control practice changes.

7. Procedures:

CCE, MC contracted for category specific training and prepared the CORE training in house, both curriculums emphasized IPM principles and practices. Green strategies (including exclusion and physical trapping) were discussed. Using the NYS DEC list of certified applicators in the appropriate categories over 1,200 license holders in most of regions 7, 8, and 9 received the direct mailing. A 30-hour training was offered in February 2009. Applicator training appears to be satisfied by firms making the applications, contrasting the view of those in NYS DEC, IPM and CCE, MC as interest in the training was lacking. A one year follow up is being conducted assessing knowledge retention and practices changes. Results of this follow up will be submitted as an appendix to the final report in 60 days.

8. Results and discussion:

- No school Districts were represented.
- Three private firms send students (four students). A schedule conflict precluded participation by the instructor from the University of Rochester. The message he planned to present was summarized by Extension staff within the scope of the agenda.
- The program presented emphasized proper pest identification techniques using specific examples. A holistic approach to pest management was a recurring theme.
- All participants became certified in one or more of the categories the offered training.
- An expectation is the information obtained is shared with others in the firms directly represented in the training.
- Participating pest control operators are being assessed for a change in practices and the degree of sharing with colleagues not in attendance. The change in practices will provide a contrasting snapshot of participants and non participants in their pest management practices. Past and present pesticide use is also part of the participant assessment.
- The small class size made program cost very high.
- Future training will be directed to the private sector and be conducted by the firm or via web or computer based learning.
- Empirical knowledge (CCE, MC, IPM program staff & industry comments) provided the base for embarking with the training. That knowledge was not statistically valid.
- The availability of this as a computer based training is being shared and has been shared with at least six firms contacting CCE, MC directly AFTER the training looking for training opportunities.
- Participants and the sponsoring firm valued the local training opportunity.
- CCE, MC is not likely to offer such training in the future. Limited web based or computer module training in this area might be considered.
- The information transferred might be offered directly to firms for delivery via webinar.

9. Project location(s):

The training was marketed to individuals in: Allegheny, Cattaraugus Chautauqua, Chemung, **Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe (training venue), Orleans**, Onondaga, Niagara Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins, **Wayne** and Wyoming. (Bold indicates anticipated primary audience locations. Only Monroe County was represented by participants.)