

FINAL REPORT 2000

COMMUNITY IPM

Title: Orange County School IPM

Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County

Project Leaders: Rosemarie S. Baglia, Diana K. Weiner

Collaborators: Lynn Braband, Gary J. Couch

Objectives:

- To determine the awareness level, knowledge, and current status of IPM practices in Orange County schools.

Conducted a survey of school superintendents, administrators, and building and grounds personnel to assess their level of awareness and knowledge of IPM principles, and current school IPM practices. A follow-up survey is planned for 2001.

- To develop IPM educational programs for schools to increase the level of awareness and knowledge of IPM principles, and enable school personnel to make informed decisions regarding pest control methods.

Utilized survey results to develop a school IPM educational program tailored to meet the educational needs of Orange County school personnel. A school IPM workshop was conducted to address the educational needs of school personnel (November 15, 2000, 30 attendees). This workshop focused on pesticide regulations, developing school IPM policies, and structural IPM issues. Workshop evaluations were conducted and analyzed. Another workshop is planned for February 2001 to address athletic field issues and ornamental IPM.

Outcome:

CCE educators acquired baseline data on awareness and knowledge of IPM by school personnel from the survey. The survey indicated that most schools in Orange County contract with Pest Control Operators for structural pest control, but most athletic fields and grounds are maintained and treated for pests by school personnel. Sixty percent of the survey respondents indicated that their district did not have a pest management policy. Thirty three percent were unaware of the new mandatory 48 hour pesticide application notification law as it applies to schools. Data can be compared with a follow-up survey to evaluate increased knowledge for individuals attending IPM educational programs.

Orange County school personnel became more knowledgeable about IPM principles and practices by attending the fall school IPM conference and given the knowledge they need to develop and implement IPM programs for their facilities. Twelve out of seventeen attendees listed at least two IPM practices they intend to use within the next year as a result of the workshop.

Valuable contacts were made with school personnel for potential on site demonstration projects and future programming efforts.

