

Tick IPM Outreach and Research Activities, NYS IPM Program, 2015

Project Leader(s):

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Cooperators:

Lynn Braband, Karen English, Betsy Lamb, Brian Eshenaur, NYS IPM Program; Kyle Wickings, Paul Curtis, Cornell University; Lyme Advisory Board; NYS Senate Task Force on Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases; Bethlehem Committee on Deer and Ticks; CCE Onondaga

Abstract:

Ticks and tick-borne diseases have become a significant public health issue in New York, with different tick species and diseases currently present and spreading within the state. In 2014, developing, confirming, and/or promoting methods for reducing the impact of ticks in community settings in a measureable way was added to the Community IPM Priorities. In 2015, Community IPM staff engaged diverse audiences in learning about tick and host management, conducted research, and assisted other organizations.

5. Background and justification:

Ticks are known vectors of human and animal disease. The most discussed example of a tick-borne illness in NY is Lyme disease which, since Lyme disease first became reportable in 1986, has been confirmed in over 98,500 cases (NYS DOH). But Lyme and black-legged ticks are only two pieces of the puzzle of tick-borne illnesses. Different NY ticks, including American dog ticks, lone star ticks, brown dog ticks, and black-legged ticks, can carry different diseases, sometimes at the same time including Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, depending upon the tick species. Tick paralysis and a tick-bite induced allergy are additional health threats to which New Yorkers are exposed.

Combatting human and companion and farm animal exposure to tick-borne diseases centers on an IPM approach to reducing tick and host habitat, managing the ticks and their hosts, and personal and animal protection.

Objectives:

- Reduce human exposure to tick-borne illnesses.
- Educate homeowners, school grounds managers, parks officials, and municipalities about the importance of monitoring and habitat modification as a first step in tick management.
- Promote IPM, including monitoring and personal protection, as best management practices for avoiding ticks and tick-borne disease.

Activities:

Collaboration and Information Sharing

Community IPM staff represented the NYS IPM Program on different committees committed to addressing ticks and tick-borne disease issues.

- **The Lyme Advisory Board** - Matthew Frye serves as the Secretary for The Lyme Advisory Board, which provides insight and information to Senator Sue Serino, Senate Chair of the Task Force on Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases in New York State. As a group, the Advisory Board has reviewed three new bills that were introduced to the state senate to help deal with ticks and tick-borne disease. The Board also discussed the new website, www.lymeactioncenter.com, and provided suggestions for the “Resources” page.
 - Dr. Frye’s involvement with this committee was mentioned in PeriodiCALS: <http://fall2015.periodicals.cals.cornell.edu/capitol/small-bugs-%E2%80%93-big-news>
 - Several group members, including Dr. Frye participated in a public forum to provide education about ticks and how to reduce exposure to tick-borne disease. The forum attracted over 200 attendees to discuss ticks, tick-borne disease and how to avoid them.
 - <http://hudsonvalleynewsnetwork.com/2015/07/01/senator-sue-serino-host-lyme-disease-forum/>.
 - www.nysenate.gov/video/2015/jul/01/senator-serino-hosts-community-lyme-disease-forum
 - <http://cornellcals.tumblr.com/post/123471708760/lyme-forum-provides-tips-for-avoiding-ticks>
- **Bethlehem Committee on Deer and Ticks** – Joellen Lampman serves on the committee dedicated to advancing public education and awareness of issues related to the deer and tick populations in town. All minutes and presentations can be found at www.townofbethlehem.org/752/Minutes-and-Presentations.
 - Dr. Frye provided a presentation on tick IPM.
 - Dr. Paul Curtis provided a presentation on managing deer in suburban environments.
 - The Committee’s 2015 Fall Forum Series provided town residents an opportunity to learn about ticks, tick-borne diseases, tick IPM, and deer IPM. Joellen Lampman presented during one of the forums and also staffed a table at all three events.
- **Public/Private Tick IPM Working Group** – Community IPM staff have joined more than fifty individuals from federal, state and local governments, Land Grant Universities, non-governmental organizations and others participate in this forum for communication, networking and collaboration.

IPM Staff Contributions to Trade and Professional Publications

- Frye, M.J. & J. Gangloff-Kaufmann. July 2015. “Tick Season Is Upon Us.” New York State Pest Management Association Newsletter.

CIPM Grants Program Coordination

The 2015 CIPM Grants program funded two projects related to tick management and education. A separate report for each funded project is available from the NYS IPM Program. Funded projects included:

- Reducing Impacts from Ticks in Home and Recreational Landscapes (CCE Onondaga)

- The Effects of Mulching Leaves in Place on Tick Populations in Lawns and Parks (Cornell)

IPM Fact Sheet

- Lampman, J., J. Gangloff-Kaufmann, M. Frye. [Understanding and Managing Ticks – A Guide for Schools, Child Care and Camps](#). Fact Sheet. Web.

Social Media and Blogs

The NYS IPM Facebook page has over 500 followers and information about ticks are regularly posted to the site. 2015 tick-related posts reached almost 3,000. The fact sheet was promoted through Facebook, Twitter, and the two NYS IPM blogs, *ThinkIPM* and *ABCs of School and Childcare Pest Management*. A blog post on Understanding Over-the-Counter Sprays for Mosquitoes and Ticks was also posted.

Image Gallery on Flickr

A Flickr album dedicated to ticks currently has 26 pictures showing close-ups of ticks, monitoring techniques, tick habitat, and educational materials. Some of the more popular photos in this album have over 900 views.

NYS IPM Staff Visits

When requested, NYS IPM Staff have visited properties to inspect for ticks and provide tick management recommendations. The Child Safe Playing Fields Act requires that schools and child care centers obtain an emergency exemption in order to apply a pesticide and the NY Department of Health has requested monitoring to ensure that ticks are present.

IPM Staff Presentations

Date	Location	Conference/Meeting Name	Presentation Title	Contact Hours
1/29/15	Hauppauge, NY	Professional Certified Applicators of Long Island Annual Meeting	Know Your Ticks	55
2/19/15	Webinar	Sustainable Landscapes – Horticulture Program Work Team WebEx Monthly Conversation	IPM for Ticks	139
7/2/15	Garrison, NY	Tick Talk – Panel Discussion	Tick Identification and Prevention	3.75
8/11-16/15	Altamont, NY	Altamont Fair	Community IPM Display	25.68
9/1/15	Syracuse, NY	Public Forum on Ticks and Lyme Disease	Options in Landscape Management to Minimize Tick Exposure	11.55
10/15/15	Delmar, NY	BCDT Fall Forum	Ticks, Hosts, and IPM	15.75
10/27/15	Delmar, NY	BCDT Fall Forum	Tick Table – Show & Tell	1.5
11/13/15	Dewitt, NY	Tick-Train the Trainer	Ticks and Tick-Borne Illness	60

11/17/15	Rochester, NY	2015 Turf & Grounds Exposition	TickClick	21
12/10/15	Geneva, NY	NYS IPM Program Staff Meeting	NYS IPM Program Tick Research & Outreach	15
Total Contact Hours				348.23

The unseasonably warm weather also led to news reports about ticks being found in Christmas trees. We plan to follow-up the questions regarding tick-exposure with scouting and education in 2016.

Results and discussion:

While Lyme disease is relatively well-known on Long Island and the Hudson Valley, it is an emerging disease in other parts of the state. The education efforts by the NYS IPM Program helps to address both these audiences by providing information about other ticks besides black-legged ticks and other diseases besides Lyme, providing pertinent information to individuals resulting in more people protecting themselves from exposure.

Project location(s):

- Albany
- Onondaga
- Suffolk
- Westchester

Samples of resources developed: (if applicable)

Flickr Tick Album: <http://tinyurl.com/j5xludt>

Fact sheet: [Understanding and Managing Ticks – A Guide for Schools, Child Care and Camps](#)

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/NYSIPM>

- <http://tinyurl.com/hd9oc9y>

NYS IPM Blog:

- [Understanding Over-the-Counter Sprays for Mosquitoes and Ticks](#)
- [Ticks are disgusting](#)

School IPM Blog: [Ticks are disgusting](#)

Vimeo: [Know thy Enemy: Understanding Ticks and their Management with Matt Frye](#)