

New England Pest Management Issues Conference Summary Report and Recommendations



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1. Introduction

On December 9, 2004 a group of 43 people met in Portsmouth New Hampshire for a full day discussion of pest and pesticide issues important in New England. Participants included private sector organization and individual representatives for a spectrum of stake holder interests including: food crops livestock, agricultural consulting, organic farming and gardening, an environmental/public health action group, ornamental plant protection, greenhouse operators, lawn care, and structural pest control. Government and university participants included two national EPA headquarters division chiefs, an EPA Region 1 Pesticide and Agriculture Manager, several state government pesticide regulatory officials, a state Department of Transportation roadside right of way manager, and ten Extension specialists and IPM program and pesticide safety program leaders.

The assembled group provided expertise in public health, agricultural, ornamental, turf, forest and invasive species pest management. Disciplinary expertise covered entomology, plant pathology, weed science, pesticide safety training, Federal and state pesticide registration and regulation.

The agenda included presentations followed by discussion of priorities and activities for a variety of pest management and pesticide safety program areas. The day will culminated in a issue-centered whole group discussion to review earlier points in a larger context and to introduce points not raised in the individual presentation dialogues.

This meeting has been organized by the New England Pest Management Network in response to its Advisory Council observation that there is need for better understanding across traditional boundaries - especially between regulatory agencies and other pest management stakeholders.

The conference had two major goals:

- 1) Increase connections within the region, enhance communications between New England pest managers, federal regulators, state officials, and university pest management education programs; and
- 2) Identify opportunities for action, provide guidance for existing programs, and to propose new approaches where needed.

This report consists of a list of consensus recommendations derived from written and verbal comments made during the conference, written comments, notes from the verbal discussion, and responses to the meeting evaluation form.

2. Agenda

9:00am – 9:20am Introductions

Ann Hazelrigg, University of Vermont, New England Pest Management Network.

Glen Koehler, University of Maine, New England Pest Management Network.

EPA and Regulatory Perspectives

9:20 – 10:20 Pesticide Regulations Enforcement

Andrea Szylvian, Pesticides/Agriculture Manager, EPA New England, Boston MA.

Jim Leland, Agrichemical Program Supervisor, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Burlington VT.

10:20 – 11:20 Pesticide Applicator Certification and Education

Kevin Keaney, Chief - Certification and Worker Protection Branch, Office of Pesticide Programs, USEPA Headquarters, Washington D.C.

Gary Fish, Certification Specialist, Maine Board of Pesticides Control, Maine Department of Agriculture, Augusta, ME.

11:20 – 11:40 EPA & Agriculture

Arnet (Skee) Jones, Chief - Biological Analysis Branch, Biological and Economic Analysis Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, USEPA Headquarters, Washington D.C.

New England Stakeholder Concerns

11:40 – 12:00 Lawn & Ornamental

Dick Tice, Executive Director - Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association; Director - Environmental Industry Council; Prospect CT.

12:00 – 12:20 Pesticide Environmental and Toxicology Issues

Johanna Neumann, Community Organizer, Toxics Action Center, Boston MA.

12:20 - 1:20 Lunch on site

11:20 – 11:40 Structural and Indoor

Kevin Moran, Board Certified Entomologist, Residex Inc., Norwood MA.

1:40 – 2:00 Agriculture

James Bushey, Bourdeau's and Bushey Inc. (agricultural products and services), Middlebury, VT.

2:00 – 2:20 Invasive species

Donna Ellis, Extension Educator, Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension, Storrs, CT.

2:20 – 2:40 Public health pests

Brad Robinson, Pesticide Program Supervisor, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Hartford CT

2:40 – 5:00 Group discussion

Explore diverse perspectives on key issues, opportunities for action, feedback to existing programs, and new approaches. Focus areas of discussion were:

- a. Pesticide Regulation & Applicator Education
- b. Lawn & Ornamental
- c. Environmental and Toxicology Issues, Public health pests, Structural and Indoor Pest Control
- d. Agriculture and Invasive species

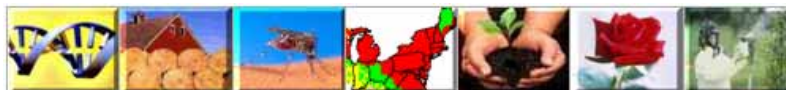
5:00 Final comments, Next steps, Adjourn

New England Pest Management Issues Conference
3. Consensus recommendations

- 1.** Few consumers realize that EPA only regulates the safety of pesticide products, and does not require efficacy data for pesticide labels. EPA must address the fact that listing a pest on an EPA-approved label will be perceived as an endorsement of efficacy for that use. As a consequence, materials with questionable efficacy are applied. For example, many of the products sold for lawn grub control are not effective. If EPA cannot add efficacy to the criteria for awarding a pesticide label, then labels should prominently and explicitly inform consumers that listing of a pest on an EPA-approved label requires no proof of efficacy for that use.
- 2.** There is a lack of information about how truth in labeling laws apply to listing pests on pesticide labels.
- 3.** Pesticide applicator licensing requires being able to read EPA pesticide labels. But pesticide labels are only printed in English. EPA needs to address the problem of pesticides being used by non-English speaking workers. It may be necessary to provide Spanish versions of EPA labels.
- 4.** Reciprocity for pesticide recertification credits among New England states has been very helpful. It would be helpful if New England states also had reciprocity for pesticide applicator licensing so that people that operate in more than one state would only have to maintain a single license.
- 5.** Discussion is underway to revamp right of way vegetation management to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and include invasive species suppression. Department of Transportation programs and USDA-APHIS and other invasive species monitoring/suppression programs should coordinate efforts.
- 6.** Invasive species are an important and increasing threat to the New England environment. EPA should increase its role in monitoring and suppression efforts.
- 7.** Pesticides can be a useful option for invasive species control, but invasive species are not included on labels so there is lack of guidance about which products are useful for which pests, rates, application guidelines etc. EPA should include invasive species on pesticide labels for which efficacy and safety criteria are met.
- 8.** EPA should expand evaluation of benefits and risks of pesticide registrations to include potential use against invasive species in natural areas.
- 9.** Information on inert ingredients should be disclosed on labels for medical and environmental protection. The environmental impact of “inert” ingredients is just as important as “active” ingredients, and should be fully evaluated in registration decisions. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act should be amended to require pesticide manufacturers and formulators to disclose the total composition of pesticide products sold to the public. Product labels should identify each inert ingredient in the formulation. Information such as provided by

the NY Attorney General office should be more widely accessible
<http://www.oag.state.ny.us/environment/inerts96.html>

- 10.** Reduction in Extension field staff contacts is a threat to continued progress in agricultural pest management, and increases the chance of pesticide misuse.
- 11.** Just as re-entry and protective equipment requirements are specified in an “Agricultural Use Requirements” box on agricultural pesticide labels, there should be an equivalent box to highlight safety requirements on labels for indoor use pesticides. Requiring room / building reentry intervals and need for gloves or other protective equipment should be considered for indoor use pesticides, even “homeowner” formulations.
- 12.** EPA registration decisions on pesticide registrations for public health pests should explicitly represent the public health risk from lack of control.
- 13.** EPA and/or state regulatory agencies should consider tighter regulation for pesticide use in food service establishments, schools and daycare facilities.
- 14.** Pesticide opponents and defenders should move beyond broadcasting their different beliefs and work together to see if they can agree on shared priorities.
 Demonstration/research projects are needed to reduce pesticide reliance for lawn and ornamental plant maintenance.
 Funding is needed for information transfer to homeowners as pesticide consumers
- 15.** EPA should provide financial support for developing pest management strategic plans
- 16.** A significant portion of the pesticide introduced into the environment is by untrained residential applicators. This population of pesticide users is not subject to training or education requirements. State IPM programs should address this audience. Perhaps greater regulation of “home pesticides” is needed.
- 17.** Commercial lawn care services can only replace pesticide application service with an IPM approach if there is market demand. Part of the problem is that consumers like to have a tangible product for the money they pay. Charging for advice that no pesticide is needed is difficult. EPA, state regulatory agencies, and University IPM programs should look for ways to stimulate market demand for IPM services to replace scheduled pesticide applications.



New England Pest Management Issues Conference
4. Written Discussion Comments

In addition to the verbal dialogue, in order to give everyone gets a chance to share their perspective, this feedback sheet was included in the participant packets. The instructions for this feedback sheet asked people to record thoughts on **key issues**, **opportunities for action**, **feedback to existing programs**, and **new approaches**. The written responses received are compiled here.

EPA and Regulatory Perspectives

1. Pesticide Regulations Enforcement

* Continue to explore the possibility that inert ingredients can be disclosed, not just in medical emergency. What are the environmental implications and concerns of these materials?

2. Pesticide Applicator Certification and Education

* I support further work in covering all users of pesticides. Homeowners apply a lot of product to lawns, in homes, and may be unaware of what they are applying, safety concerns, and environmental impacts.

* For new state programs, what about not just school IPM/pesticide training but residential (residence & yard) training?

* Adding endangered species protections to labeling is a great idea.

* We still need to better coordinate programs regionally while allowing each state to maintain it's own authority

* Language issues for training becoming more important

* Sounds like funding is tenuous

3. EPA & Agriculture

* Expand EPA analysis of pesticide risks and benefits to cover use on invasives in natural areas

* Crop profiles and PMSP should be better funded and emphasized as they appear to be such a useful tool to both EPA and Extension

* Since EPA heavily uses the information in pest management strategic plans, it would be good if EPA helped fund the creation of these documents

New England Stakeholder Concerns

4. Lawn & Ornamental

- * Support community and homeowner demonstration and research projects to reduce demand for lawn and ornamental pesticides
- * Let's work together (pesticide proponents and opponents) for funds to pesticide testing.
- * Concerns grossly overplayed at the political level for personal and organizational gain, with little basis in reality. Marketing IPM to customers – can it be made a selling point, or is a green lawn and cost consideration all customers care about?
- * With the cuts in Extension funding, how does information from research get to the homeowner level?

5. Pesticide Environmental and Toxicology Issues

- * Support research on long-term risks of pesticide exposures
- * Avoid creating an “us vs. them” environment. Rather than just stating missions, develop common priorities.
- * I feel the United States has done well in moving toward protecting our environment and health within our borders, but we need to address the fact that other countries use chemicals that not registered here. Residue testing for foreign food needs to be increased and enforced.

6. Structural and Indoor

- * Improve label requirements. Add REI info to most indoor pesticide use.
- * Tighten up enforcement of crack and crevice applications
- * Look at restricting pesticide use in food service industry
- * Suggest development of federal standards for schools and day cares
- * It appears that once again legislation is trumping science in term of making ordinances banning pesticides with little thought to human health issues that re-emerge from resultant pest problems
- * The rest of the country looks to the Northeast for expertise on this subject. We need to capitalize on this.

7. Agriculture

- * Support research and demonstration of biological and cultural IPM tactics. Reduce emphasis on chemical control, especially for weed and plant disease pests. Support research on non-pesticide approaches to pests, especially weeds and plant pathogens.

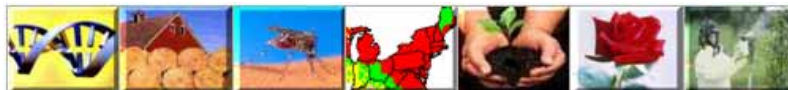
- * There is too much focus on agriculture as the source of pesticide problems given actual pesticide use patterns in the region. Overall pesticide use in agriculture is shrinking? Lack of contact between agriculture and local community leaders.
- * GMO's potential to reduce pesticide use – can they be made politically palatable?
- * The reduction of Extension agents in the field is a HUGE concern in agriculture, causing a block in the flow of information from growers or IPM practitioners to those at the University of regulatory level. Extension must be revived for all of us to make educated decisions.

8. Invasive species

- * Support efforts to develop strategic plans for managing invasives – both current and categories of future invasives. This is going to continue to be a very challenging set of pest problems.
- * Develop safe, environmentally friendly materials labeled for invasives that are general use materials, as more areas with invasives are natural areas and backyards.
- * Need more EPA interest/involvement, and more industry interest/involvement to help with identification, mapping and management. Marketing opportunity through public awareness programs.
- * The Feds have this a hot topic now. We need to partner IPM programs with APHIS to take advantage of their large resources.

9. Public health pests

- * Continue support for balanced risks approach to public policy and public education.
- * Need communication of risks – if pesticides are not used what are the human health hazards that may result? (e.g. Lyme disease, West Nile virus, bed bugs etc.)



New England Pest Management Issues Conference

5. Presentation summaries

These are draft version notes of points made in presentations and question and answer exchanges that followed.

ANDREA SZYLVIAN – Agrichemical Program Supervisor, EPA Region I

- Region is divided into two houses: Office Ecosystem Protection and Office of Environmental Stewardship.
- Program activities center mostly around grants.
- Support core pesticide program by distributing information to states and through website development
- Serve as Section 7 coordinator for pesticide establishment in region
- Field questions from public (via toll-free number and email) and from senators & congressmen
- Work with other issues: endangered species, biotech, pesticides on private lands, carcass disposal, SARE, NEIPM Center
- Registration and establishment issues i.e. mosquito control magnet claiming pesticide-like effects

JIM LELAND – Agrichemical Program Supervisor, Vermont Agency for Agriculture

- Part of the State Lead Agency (SLA) for Vermont (there are 49 across the country).
- FIFRA is an interesting law because in this case Congress delegates authority to states to do the enforcement and manage needs, use patterns, issues, etc. of pesticides. Because of this setup, each state has its own rules and regulation concerning pesticides. The exceptions are when SLA's follow federal regulation for performing producer establishment inspections and marketplace inspections for particular products.
- EPA provides grant funds to enforce, certify and train, groundwater monitoring, worker protection, endangered species. States provide funds as well.
- States report to region (number of inspections, use investigations, items covered) -there is a link between field users, state and EPA.
- AAPCO state control lobbying group provides input to legislative activity. They have a website that is a good source of information –meeting minutes, agendas, contacts for state, etc.
- The SFIREG state/EPA forum has two working committees: Pesticide Operations Management and Water Quality and Disposal.
- Be aware that this system is in place and that there is communication behind regulations
- State SFIREG members review new pesticide registration prior to EPA release so can prepare ahead of time for changes.
- States are concerned in case-by-case re-registration issues but are not much listened to on a federal level.

- State registration information is on a website but how used/who uses is unknown. Grower organizations and the university help spread the information as well.
- There is a better line of communication between the registrar of a chemical, Extension, and growers.
- Call SLA directly with specific questions and they can find answers.
- EPA decides labeling with producer. States cannot effect labeling. Ingredients are proprietary.
- States or EPA product manager (name off website) can obtain inert ingredient information to provide to medical personnel in emergency but information needs to remain confidential.

KEVIN KEANEY – Chief, EPA Certification and Worker Protection

- There is value in programs that bring information to the EPA that can affect the way regulations are written and the way risk assessments are done.
- Strategic framework for Pesticide Safety Program is driven by 1) Agricultural Worker Protection and 2) Certified Pesticide Applicator Regulation.
- Health Care Provider Initiative aims to raise awareness in health care provider community about issues surrounding pesticides.
- EPA provides funding to state regulatory agencies or passes money through states to support training.
- Testing is a competency assessment at entry level in the profession and training has tightened and focused over the years.
- Funding is increasingly tied to performance indicators
- How do we bridge Extension training/state certification/EPA goals and relate activities to performance indicators?
- CTAG does not aggressively seek input from industry/stakeholders but input and support from people who use the products is essential
- The public is historically more concerned with restricted use pesticide application being done around them than with proper retail and consumer pesticide use.
- There is a need for exams, guides, etc.
- Agricultural Worker Protection outreach is addressing the need for exams, guides, training, etc. in languages other than English. Competency can be measured in various ways but labels are only in English. Electronic versions of translated material are becoming available.
- Regional core exams developed by EPA will be offered for voluntary adoption by states to save time and money.
- Develop entry level certification to address indirect supervisory roles and worker safety.

GARY FISH – Certification Specialist, Maine Board of Pesticides Control

- Pesticide categories and regulations vary state to state.
- New England generally more strict on general use pesticides than other US regions.
- State Lead Agencies are required to have EPA approved certification plan that are updated every year, administrative licensing process, and write training materials and certification exams, often in conjunction with Extension.
- The writing of manuals and exams is a cumbersome and ongoing process due to frequent changes in regulation. Manuals and exams are moving towards looseleaf format to adapt to the changes.
- State Lead Agencies and Extension work together to administer commercial applicator exams, schedule and present exam training sessions, and schedule and present continuing education programs.
- Other duties include: schedule and present IPM training, schedule and present school IPM, Master Gardener training, schedule and present Worker Protection Standards training programs, and training on recognition and management of pesticide poisoning.
- Priorities to manage constant addition of new programs without additional long-term funding include: pursue and maintain solid and consistent funding; share information, training materials and expertise; develop non-English training materials; develop web based training and certification; and reduce currently unmanageable number of categories.
- Pesticide Registration Improvement Act requires registrants of pesticides to contribute funds used for enhancing worker protection.
- Pesticide Regulator Education Programs designed with regional approach to assist state program development.
- Global Harmonization of labels is coming and will have awesome implications to the way things are done surrounding pesticides.
- Need to come up with better ways to do training and develop accountability among industry certification programs that can be reviewed by the state. The writing is on the wall for working with non-governmental organizations for training and exams.
- Need to address homeowner use of pesticides.

ARNET (SKEE) JONES – Chief, EPA Biological and Economic Analysis Division

- Biological Economic Analysis Division assesses use (crops) and usage (application rates, % crop treated) information for pesticides to provide link between risk managers, risk assessors, and the field end users.
- BEAD reviews Section 18 packages.
- Low usage triggers benefits analysis for pesticide.
- There is a lot of anecdotal evidence but really like to see data.
- Characterizing real-world use of pesticides is challenging.
- Look mainly at field use since this is the easiest place to get data from.
- Data sources include NASS, California, DOANE, crop profiles, pest management strategic plans (efficacy information is useful), census, and state recommendations.
- Biological management alternatives are considered.

DICK TICE – Executive Director - Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association; Director - Environmental Industry Council

- Pesticide applicators have a problem with anti-pesticide activists who do not operate on scientific evidence.
- “Box store” handling of pesticides is subject to attack.
- There is a problem with the fact that original studies persist despite being refuted.
- Pets and kids are primary areas that the public are concerned with in relation to pesticides.

JOHANNA NEUMANN – Community Organizer, Toxics Action Center

- Pesticides are toxic and should be phased out.
- There are concrete steps communities can take to phase out pesticide use.
- Pesticide use and the number of cancer-causing agents included in pesticides has increased.
- The chemical industry dominates policy and regulators are failing to protect the public from the dangers of pesticides.
- There needs to be better testing of pesticides and their synergistic effects prior to release.
- Prevent application in areas where product will come in contact with children.
- The government needs to provide technical information about pesticides and their use.
- Does toxic necessarily mean that it is bad?

KEVIN MORAN – Board Certified Entomologist, Residex Inc

- Structural pesticide applicator issues with EPA mainly concern labeling.
- Some insects need to be put back on labels because they are reemerging as pests, such as bedbugs and cockroaches.
- Labels need to be reflective of actual use.
- New chemistry registration needs to be moved along to make up for products no longer available.
- State licensing process is difficult at entry level.
- Retail market competition is an issue at state level. Homeowners can buy the same products that structural industry must be licensed to apply. It is then hard to justify the cost of hiring professionals.
- Product stewardship should be pursued such that an end user cannot purchase products unless trained through industry. This is not a problem since it brings in consumers and raises awareness.
- Cooperation in licensing and certification between states is helpful.
- States need flexible laws that adapt to changing and emerging pest issues, such as cockroaches.

JAMES BUSHEY – Bourdeau's and Bushey Inc. (agricultural products and services)

- Business owner building farmer customer relationships selling feed, seed, fertilizer, farm supplies, pesticides and related services.
- Most of the time suppliers are the applicators of the products sold as customers are becoming more likely to stay out of the process.

- In VT, pesticide education comes out from university system and Extension, working with state Agency of Agriculture, which promotes IPM and safe use of pesticides, provides updates, current research, and new techniques.
- Review of the past year's performance during recertification training sessions highlights both good and bad practices for the benefit of all.
- Agency of Agriculture provides regulation and enforcement. They are the go-to people for questions about use/misuse of pesticides and to explain, provide, and administer procedures. They are very visible and trusted by the public. Penalties are a big incentive to follow the regulations.
- Seeing reduced chemical use over the years due to using less product, smaller amounts, and a shift towards prevention.
- GMO use reduces need to use pesticides.
- Increasing urban/farm interface causing shift to fewer, larger scale farms that are more concentrated and visible.
- Coexistence of agriculture and urban growth issues need to be addressed.

DONNA ELLIS – Extension Educator, Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, University of Connecticut

- Non-native species that can survive and spread in the wild are considered invasive.
- Lots of information about invasive species is available on the web, including mapping.
- Need research to develop non-invasive cultivars and sterile strains of popular invasive species.
- Pesticide labeling needs to include use on invasive species to speed response to outbreaks.
- Pesticides need to be developed that can be effective against borers.
- The green industry has figures on losses if there is a ban of ornamental invasive species. Otherwise, the economic impact of a ban on other invasive species is not well characterized.

BRAD ROBINSON – Pesticide Program Supervisor, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

- Pest-borne diseases are a reason that pesticides are used to manage public pests such as ticks, mosquitoes, and rodents.
- Risk perception is highly varied when considering pesticide use. “Outrage” can be generated from perceived risk and lack of trust.
- Regulators and applicators need to build trust through honest and open processes, choosing the path of least hazard, and convincing the public that we know what we are doing.

New England Pest Management Issues Conference
6. Group Discussion summary

GENERAL TOPICS

- Still need to sell IPM to public that wants a cheap fix and is only interested in the immediate end result.
- Convey to customers importance of expert monitoring and bill even if find no problem, similar to medical doctors.
- Educate public on personal responsibility for preventative measures to reduce pesticide use.
- Build credibility and sense of trust as professionals so that if pesticides are going to be used then public prefers to get someone who knows what they are doing instead of a knee-jerk reaction using retail products.
- Support research, pursue alternatives to pesticides, analyze cultural issues surrounding use, build understanding why pest here, build curiosity, create a broad perspective, highlight underlying issues.
- State website information is not getting to industry to help them be more professional.

a. Pesticide Regulation & Applicator Education

- Educational materials need to be available in languages other than English.
- The minimum pesticide package size can buy is often too large and wasteful for small growers and homeowners.
- Address options and incentives for small growers and homeowners to purchase smaller amounts of pesticides, thereby generating less waste from unused product.
- Soluble packaging reduces container disposal costs, which is good.
- Need flexibility and cooperation in labels for use against new pests (invasives) and reemerging pests (bedbugs, cockroaches)
- Who does public feel comfortable calling with questions –state or industry?
- Continue to support applied research to start process of getting products out.

b. Lawn & Ornamental

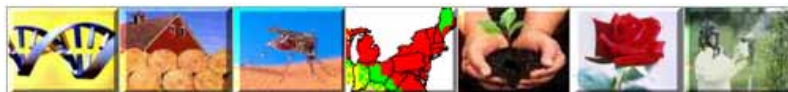
- Need to look at efficacy data for products. Older products coming off patent and new products that bypass background data are only marginally effective and can lead to overuse.
- EPA is not in the business of measuring efficacy on the assumption that if a product is put up for registration, it must be sufficiently effective to justify the expense of the registration process.
- EPA concern is about product passing risk assessment.
- Products that are exempt from EPA registration have no way to know efficacy, consequences of use. Public is driven to use non-regulated products because they are easily available and list of regulated products is limited.

c. Environmental and Toxicology Issues, Public health pests, Structural and Indoor Pest Control

- Would like to see fossil fuel reduction adopted by EPA/SLA's
- Can spend less on herbicides than fuel cost of mowing right of ways but public perception would not allow use of herbicides. There needs to be an environmental study of each option that includes the safety of operators. Need to evaluate long term impacts and expenses of maintenance levels i.e. fires from weeds on railroads, derailments that cause environmental damage.
- Determine reduced exposure through either multiple treatments or one shot control.
- Definition and education of crack and crevice application training needed.

d. Agriculture and Invasive species

- Need to educate applicators on the new nozzle types that reduce drift.
- Need to increase communication between growers and Extension researchers.
- It is difficult to rebuild infrastructure once lost to lack of funding.
- Are rates or toxicity more important?
- Need to address holdup of label approval for one crop vs. another.
- Develop ways to work with chemical industry for specific invasive species control and include in labeling.
- Education of public is important since homeowners can't be forced to control invasive species.
- Develop ways to test wild specimens to determine if they are invasive species.
- Need research to develop non-invasive cultivars and sterile strains of popular invasive species.
- Invasives groups and transportation maintenance groups should work together. These groups could move forward a common ground regionally across geopolitical boundaries on what to deal with and how. Transportation people are not going to go out on their own to control invasives unless they are causing problems. Biodiversity issues could be addressed as well. Money is needed to make this happen.



New England Pest Management Issues Conference

7. Meeting Evaluation responses

An evaluation feedback sheet was included in the packets given to each of the 40 people who participated in the conference. The evaluation form and the box used to collect them allowed anonymous feedback. Eleven evaluation forms were returned.

1. Has this conference broadened your awareness of pest management issues in New England? Yes = 11, No = 0. Yes % = 100%

Comments:

- * Very interesting to hear from the regulators (EPA) on their limitations
- * Interesting to hear how various states have different regulatory rules
- * Still a surprising amount antagonism between industry and interest groups, both of whom are suspicious and somewhat hostile to regulatory agencies. Why can't we get beyond this?
- * Helped with understanding of broad issues facing stakeholders in other areas of pest management.
- * Good broad look at issues.

2. Do you think this conference has contributed to improved communication among pest management interest groups and programs within the region?

Yes = 11, No = 0. Yes % = 100%

Comments:

- * Ultimately, from my perspective, people will return to their own camps and keep the same perspective. More communication perhaps, but to what end?
- * Too bad Johanna (Toxic Action Center representative) left before the discussion, even before some of the presentations
- * It's too bad we ran out of time in the discussion. We could have used another half day of discussion.
- * Some networking accomplished, but it is impressive how many already knew each other or were at least familiar with each other's programs.
- * More participation from environmental activist groups would have been helpful.
- * Conference contributed to improved communication, but it will have to continue.

3. Do you think this conference has helped to improve understanding between pest management practitioners, regulatory officials and education programs?

Yes = 10.5, No = 0.5 Yes % = 86%

Comments:

- * Nice interaction. This is a good idea to repeat (with more practitioners and regulatory representatives).

- * I don't think anybody changed anybody else's opinion or outlooks, partly because the atmosphere was allowed to become confrontational. Perhaps communication between the opposing parties and regulators was improved.
- * Conference contributed to improved understanding, but communication will have to continue

4. Did you gain new information or insight about pesticide regulation? (Or about client perspective if you are a regulatory official)

Yes = 9, No = 2. Yes % = 82%

Comments:

- * Excellent having EPA representatives to present from their perspective
- * Would like to hear more.
- * Provided a nice review of the "chain of command" which is helpful.
- * Specific concerns may be different, but the overall themes are similar

5. What were the most useful and least useful aspects of this meeting?

Comments:

Most useful

- * Gaining insider perspective into how regulators, distributors, IPM and interest groups see the issues
- * Homeowner information and education
- * Pesticide label discussion
- * Overall excellent, group size was good, not too big
- * Great location. Nice mix of audience.
- * The discussion aspect of the conference was very interesting and allowed specific points to be brought to light.
- * Bringing together most sides of the pesticide issue to attempt to determine common needs. However, the opportunity was nearly missed by allowing the atmosphere to become confrontational early in the meeting.
- * Dialogue is always good. Good exchange of info, especially with EPA.

Least useful

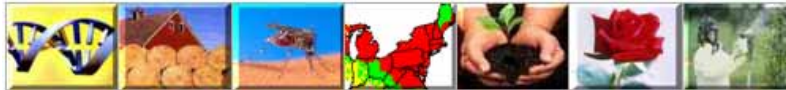
- * Need more action items to come out of meeting or document needs.
- * Rehash of EPA functions not that useful.
- * Goals for discussion sections were not well defined –topics?, objectives?, how to achieve goals? Poor moderation, little continuity between speakers, no effective regulation of long-winded participants. How did these presentations relation to goals of conference?
- * Least useful was talk from CT Groundskeepers Association (challenging credibility of environmental groups that challenge pesticide use)

6. Do you think it would be useful to have similar conferences in the future, but focusing on one or two topic areas?

Yes = 11, No = 0. Yes %= 100%

Comments: What topics would be useful?

- * How to market IPM
- * Educating the consumer about IPM
- * Working together to find common ground with environmental groups, pro & con.
- * Multiagency meetings to determine where we can collaborate, i.e. regional meeting with NRCS & IPM related departments.
- * Concentrate on topics that aren't typically addressed by other commodity groups, conferences etc.
- * Unclear – all in all the conference was not that helpful for me because it didn't provide any real skills or concrete tools to take away.
- * More on IPM, less on pesticides. How about biocontrol?
- * Invasive species
- * More education on the process of regulation for Toxics Action Center and CT Groundskeepers



New England Pest Management Issues Conference
8. Participant List

Connecticut

Candace Bartholomew
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