The Working Group meets via conference call on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00PM CT (2:00PM EST). The next conference call will take place January 7th.

1. Roll

- Mason Kauffman, US Biologic
- Chris Przybyszewski, US Biologic
- Tom Mather, TickEncounter and Center for Vector-Borne Disease at U of Rhode Island
- Bob Maurais, Mainely Ticks
- Tom Green, IPM Institute of North America, Inc.
- Tom Delaney, National Land Care Network, National Lawn Care Association
- Jennifer Reid, BLAST Lyme Program
- Jill Auerbach, Hudson Valley Lyme Disease Association
- Laura Hayes, Connecticut Agricultural experiment station
- Kirby Stafford, Connecticut Agricultural experiment station
- Joellen Lampman, New York State IPM Program
- Chloe Nelson, IPM Institute of North America, Inc.

2. Tick-related news

  Researchers from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health have developed a test that they say will allow them to test for how many *Borrelia burgdorferi* live and die after administering different drugs. They can test the effectiveness of thousands of FDA approved drugs to see if they work against the Lyme disease causing bacteria. If successful, this will be the most helpful to patients suffering from long-term symptoms of Lyme disease.

  Researchers found how genes evolve inside of deer tick bacteria. Ticks have genes that help their body’s natural bacteria create toxins to fight competing bacteria (in this case *Borrelia burgdorferi*), keeping Lyme from replicating to the point of killing ticks. Researchers are looking into how to use genetic strategies to reduce the amount of toxins produced, causing ticks to be affected by *Borrelia burgdorferi* and dying. This would kill the ticks carrying Lyme disease and reduce exposure and incidence for humans. This would likely decades if it can ever be achieved, but any further study in tick biology will get closer to finding more ways to intervene in transmission.

Researchers are studying how environmental sensing of *Borrelia burgdorferi* drives the modulation of tick cellular structures and regulatory pathways throughout development. These results help define genetic contributions to disease survival in nature and virulence in humans.

3. Working Group renewal proposal update
   - The renewal proposal for the North Central IPM Center is on track for December 12th submission.
   - A request for letters of support was sent out earlier this week. For those planning on sending a letter of support, please get it to Chloe Nelson (cnelson@ipminstitute.org) no later than the end of the day of December 11th.

4. Discussion
   - Bob Maurais asked about the status of Chuck Lubelczyk’s project proposal to organize a Tick IPM Symposium. The proposal was not submitted in time to be considered for funding, but the idea for an in-person meeting should be revisited. A meeting is overdue and this may be something for the Working Group to get more involved in.