Public Tick IPM Working Group  
June 8th, 2016

Send additions, omissions or other corrections to cnelson@ipminstitute.org  
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 July 13th.

1. Roll
   - Jill Auerbach, Hudson Valley Lyme Disease Association
   - Joellen Lampman, New York State IPM Program
   - Karla Lehtonen, Empire State Lyme Disease Association
   - Bob Maurais, Mainely Ticks
   - Tom Mather, University of Rhode Island
   - Chloe Nelson, IPM Institute of North America, Inc.
   - Chris Przybyszewski, US BIOLOGIC
   - Kirby Stafford, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

2. Agenda
   - Tick Related News and Resources
   - Post 2016 ITM Symposium Summary
   - Revisit Tick Pest Alert Development
   - Additional group member updates, comments, announcements, questions

3. Tick Related News and Resources (3)
   a. ESA collection on Tick Integrated Pest Management (http://insectscience.org/content/special-collection-tick-integrated-pest-management)
      i. ESA and Oxford University Press have gathered a collection of articles on tick IPM and its components. These articles are available to assist researchers, medical professionals, and others working on tick management.
   b. PATH Foundation awarded grant for Tick Surveillance and Analysis Program
      ii. A $25,000 grant was awarded to help support a tick collection effort in Fauquier County, Virginia to study pathogenic diseases carried by local Black Legged ticks and Lone Star ticks, providing an important metric on infection rates that will be helpful to local care providers and the Virginia Department of Health. Tick samples will be sent to Old Dominion University’s Tick Laboratory for pathogen analysis. The infection rate data will be disseminated to the VA Dept. of Health and local healthcare providers through public outreach.
      iii. This study will use drag techniques and tick traps of dry ice canisters to collect ticks from residential neighborhoods, public lands, parks and private properties- approximately 10-12 locations. Old Dominion University’s Tick Laboratory will test for pathogens and produce an infection rate from the collected ticks for Lyme disease and Ehrlichia. According to the press release they started collection May 23rd and are hoping to have results available in October.
   c. “Invasion of two tick-borne diseases across New England: harnessing human surveillance data to capture underlying ecological invasion processes”
      i. Abstract: http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/283/1832/20160834
      ii. Summary: Surveillance data was used to investigate the mechanisms behind tick-borne pathogen invasion and the drivers underlying the distinct invasion trajectories of Lyme disease and human babesiosis. This approach allowed an estimation of the ecological processes that
impact pathogen spread while accounting for imperfect detection of human cases. Their model predicts a diffusion-like spread of TBDs with occasional long-distance dispersal and that the spread of babesiosis is dependent on Lyme disease.

4. **Post 2016 ITM Symposium Summary**
   - The 2016 Integrated Tick Management Symposium was on May 16-17 in Washington D.C. with a total of 146 participants.
   - The event was structured into 1 and ½ days of presentations which covered the main themes of “The Problem,” “The Approach,” and “The Solution.” The largest session was in “The Approach” which overviewed different approaches for ITM and disease reduction.
   - A questions panel was held after each session. We left two open microphones on the floor for audience members to ask questions.
   - The second day included a final session of presentations and then everyone divided into five break-out sessions. After about an hour of group discussions we came back together into one group to review the main take-away points from each breakout group.
   - Right now we are still wrapping up from the event and waiting on three presenters to provide posting permissions for their presentations. We are hoping to have pdf versions of the presentations on the event website this week. We will send an email out when they are up and include a brief post-event survey to collect feedback on what worked well and what could be improved for the future.
   - Feedback from the event thus far has been very positive. One presenter commented that they enjoyed this meeting more than the International meeting.
   - The final component of the event was optional congressional visits to meet with representatives. Tom Mather and Bob Maurais participated in these visits. Overall representatives seemed uninformed about TBDs and the health risk they pose. Tom was partnered with Amanda Eiden and Bob with Chuck Lubelczyk. Teams of two were successful to spread expertise and navigate halls, but any more than 2 would be a crowd. They mostly met with representatives aides.
   - One approach Tom’s team took was to come up with a pitch for finding more novel ways to obtain tick funding. Over the last decades there has been erosion at county-level cooperative extension. It just so happened that’s exactly the type of job Amanda is looking for, but there are few opportunities. This level of support could connect with communities as a county level resource.
   - Potential opportunity through NIFA funds for supporting cooperative extension through the Farm bill. Changing funding allocations and looking at grant programs (rural innovation funds) are areas that could be investigated.

5. **Revisit Tick Pest Alert Development**
   - See attached zika pest alert example
   - We first discussed creating a Tick Pest Alert for the North Central IPM Center in April and put this on hold until after the 2016 ITM Symposium in May. We discussed addressing one TBD or all, consensus was to cover more than just Lyme disease.
   - Important to convey the risk of a TBD, but also communicate that not all bites will lead to disease transmission.
   - Chloe Nelson will put together a first draft for the July call that can be revised by other group members. Images will be important to incorporate.
6. **Additional group member updates, comments, announcements, questions**
   - Chris Przybyszewski will be attending the Lyme Innovation Hackathon ([http://lymeinnovation.org/](http://lymeinnovation.org/)) on June 17th-19th as a mentor. He will provide a follow-up from this event on the July call.

The next conference call will take place **July 13th**. Future calls will continue to fall on the second Wednesday of each month.