Public Tick IPM Working Group
August 10th, 2016
Send additions, omissions or other corrections to afreund@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 September 14th.

1. Roll
   • Jill Auerbach, Hudson Valley Lyme Disease Association
   • Alina Freund, IPM Institute of North America
   • Tom Green, IPM Institute of North America
   • Mason Kauffman, US BIOLOGIC
   • Karla Lehtonen, Empire State Lyme Disease Association
   • Bob Maurais, Mainely Ticks
   • Phyllis Mervine, LymeDisease.org
   • Chloe Nelson, IPM Institute of North America
   • Robert Ollar, Pike County Tick Borne Diseases Task Force Committee
   • Chris Przybyszewski, US BIOLOGIC
   • Pat Smith, Lyme Disease Association

2. Agenda
   • WG coordination transition to Alina Freund
   • Tick related news
   • Lyme Disease Educational Forum and Fundraiser update
   • Draft #2 of Tick Pest Alert
   • ITMS post event survey results and next steps discussion
   • Additional updates, comments, announcements, questions.

3. WG coordination transition to Alina Freund
   a. Working Group coordination is changing from Chloe Nelson to Alina Freund after this conference call. Chloe will send out call notes for this call, but all post-call communications should be sent to Alina at afreund@ipminstitute.org.
   b. Alina works on community IPM projects for the IPM Institute. This includes managing programs like IPM Star, Green Shield Certified and coordination for the Public Tick IPM Working Group. More information on these projects is available on http://ipminstitute.org/projects/. Before coming to the IPM Institute, Alina worked for international organizations focused on sustainable supply chains and management of market research.

4. Tick related news (2)
   a. Lars Eisen and Marc Dolan publication in the J. Medical Entomology, “Evidence for Personal Protective Measures to Reduce Human Contact with Blacklegged Ticks and for Environmentally Based Control Methods to Suppress Host-Seeking Blacklegged Ticks and Reduce Infection with Lyme Disease Spirochetes in Tick Vectors and Rodent Reservoirs.”
      • Link to article: http://jme.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2016/07/19/jme.tjw103
Summary: This paper reviews the progress over the past 30 years in two fields:
1. Prevention of human-tick contact with repellents and permethrin-treated clothing and
2. Suppression of black-legged ticks and disruption of enzootic {\it borrelia burgdorferi} transmission with environmentally based control methods.

Each method application is overviewed with results from various studies and provides areas of potential impact and/or concern.

Protective measures for the first field to prevent human-tick contact include synthetic and natural product-based repellents for skin and clothing, permethrin sprays for clothing and gear and permethrin-treated clothing.

The second field of black legged tick suppression and borrelia transmission disruption, the review addresses synthetic chemical acaricide application, natural product-based acaricide application rodent-targeted topical acaricides, and targeting of deer via population reduction and topical acaricide treatment.

This includes mention that rodent-targeted topical acaricides provide a great alternative for homeowners to use instead of or in addition to spray applications. Also, that the combined approaches for targeting of deer have great potential on impacting an entire landscape, but have problems in public acceptance and implementation logistics.

A final section addresses integrated pest management, commenting that integrated use of two or more methods has few publications but additional field evaluations of integrated strategies are underway.

Lars Eisen will join a future conference call later in the fall to share more on this research with the Working Group. This summer both he and Marc (from CDC) are busy with Zika and are unable to join us until October/November.

b. Jill Auerbach has contacted Dan Sonenshine regarding his work on transgenic ticks and connected him with Kevin Esvelt from MIT who is working on transgenic mice and using the anti-tick salivary blocker. Kevin Esvelt will also be presenting at the LDA/Columbia University 2 Day Lyme Conference on October 15-16 in St. Paul, MN.

Scholarships to participate in the conference are available. The application deadline is September 7, 2016. More information on eligibility and submission available [here](#).

5. Lyme Disease Educational Forum and Fundraiser update (Jill Auerbach)


b. Dr. Paul Keim presented on the new TGen test. The timeline they are working with has testing of Bay area Lyme samples this month. Larger sample trials of at least 1000 will happen in 2017 while seeking FDA approval. They project that in the first quarter of 2018 this testing will be made available to the public.

c. TGen detects twenty-one Borrelia assays, eleven other tick-related assays and seven non-Lyme pathogens. This is the future of blood testing which can be done in a doctor’s office to detect active infections.

6. Draft #2 of Tick Pest Alert

a. A second draft of the Tick Pest Alert is included (see attachment on the call notes listing page). Edits suggested from the July call and post-call communications are incorporated.
b. This is being created for the North Central IPM Center as a two-page (1 pg. double-sided) resource with an overview of ticks, diseases they may transmit and tips for protection and disease transmission prevention. Once a draft is finalized, a graphic designer from the NC IPM Center will help make the layout more consistent with the other completed pest alerts with a header design and layout considerations.

c. Distribution maps from CDC and a tick identification/growth stage image from Tom Mather’s Tick Encounter website are incorporated. These images can be swapped out if needed. Source citations will need to be included in a final version.

d. For the next draft, suggestions include: add a more complete list of diseases, include lymedisease.org as a source and minimal language updates throughout.

7. ITMS post event survey results and next steps discussion

a. Results are included (see second attachment on call notes listing page) from the 2016 Integrated Tick Management Symposium post-event survey. Thanks to everyone who attended the event and completed the survey. Part of the event wrap-up for funding deliverables includes helping establish a list of next steps needed to work towards the goal of reducing tick-borne disease.

b. Page 14 of the results provides the response selections to the question, “What action step(s) would be most effective towards the goal of reducing tick-borne disease?” Top five selections include:
   - Coordinate state and county surveillance efforts.
   - Educate policy makers about TBD costs and public policy options including a national strategy for reducing TBD.
   - Improve community education on tick distributions, TBD risks, and personal protection measures.
   - Invest in new control technologies.
   - Increase designated TBD funding for state and county public health departments.

c. Action item: Alina Freund will add these results as priorities to the WG website in addition to our WG identified priorities.

d. It would be interesting to see to what degree is there coordination between state and county surveillance efforts and what needs to be improved upon. TickAlert could be great to help with this top selected response.

e. For the second point on TBD costs, we can generate a 1 pg. business case summary companion document with the Tick Pest Alert that covers incurred costs and what isn’t being addressed by the money spent. This could be used for policy-maker education.

f. Perhaps our Working Group could work with other groups to have more regular lobbying in Congress. ESA has a contract with a D.C. lobbying group and is part of a consortium for scientific bases. If the Working Group develops the tools needed, organizations already involved in lobbying efforts like ESA or land grant institutions could prioritize this outreach and education as priorities on their lists.
   - Lorraine Johnson from LymeDisease.org has cost-comparison information from past presentations that could be referenced (mentioned by Phyllis Mervine).
   - A group from NY State lobbied Congress with a comprehensive slide show that could also be referenced (mentioned by Jill Auerbach).
   - We could set up a call with ESA regarding their work with paid lobbyists.
8. Additional updates, comments, announcements, questions

a. Pat Smith was invited to speak on a Lyme disease panel at the Women in Government Conference on September 30th, 2016. If you have ideas on what she might include, please send them to lymeliter@aol.com.

b. Reminder that the Working Group website can be found at: https://tickipmwg.wordpress.com/

The next conference call will take place September 14th. Future calls will continue to fall on the second Wednesday of each month. Please help get Alina started by sending your updates, announcements or other agenda items to afreund@ipminstitute.org to share on September’s call.