Public Tick IPM Working Group
October 11th, 2017

Please send additions, omissions or other corrections to flaufenberg@ipminstitute.org

The Working Group meets via conference call on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00PM CT (2:00PM EST). The following notes are for October 11th, 2017.

Roll
- Frank Laufenberg, IPM Institute of North America
- Robyn Nadolny, Army Public Health Center, Tick Testing Lab
- David Thueret, Entomologist for the Arkansas Department of Health
- Bieneke Bron, UW-Madison
- Susan Weinstein, Arkansas State Public Health Veterinarian
- Jennifer Gruener, Warren County Mosquito Commission
- Bob Maurais, Mainely Ticks
- Mason Kauffman, US BIOLOGIC
- Chris Przybyszewski, US BIOLOGIC
- Mike Mrozinski, Pike County Tick Borne Diseases Task Force
- Kirby Stafford, Connecticut Ag Experiment Station
- Rayda Krell, Western Connecticut State University
- Tim Fox, Madison Area Lyme Support Group
- Jennifer Reid, BLAST Program
- Monica White, Colorado Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Association
- Jill Auerbach, TRED and Hudson Valley Lyme Disease Association
- Karla Lehtonen, Empire State Lyme Disease Association

Agenda
1. Presentation on the Army Public Health Center’s Tick Work – Robyn Nadolny
2. Brief update the Public Tick IPM Working Group grant
3. Additional updates, comments and announcements from Working Group members

2. Presentation on the Army Public Health Center’s Tick Work – Robyn Nadolny
   a. Dr. Robyn Nadolny started working on ticks under Dr. Holly Gaff and has studied the ecology of ticks extensively in southeastern Virginia. She was awarded the SMART scholarship through the Department of Defense and the Army Public Health Center’s (or APHC) tick testing lab in 2011 to continue her work studying ticks. She recently stepped into Ellen Stromdahl’s roll as APHC entomologist and program coordinator at the Tick-borne Disease laboratory.
   b. Review Robyn’s provided presentation slides.
   c. APHC’s Tick Testing lab tests and reports roughly 3,000 ticks per year.
   d. B. Lonestari is no longer considered a pathogen – Borrelia Lonestari has not been confirmed as a vector for any disease at this point.
      i. The causal agent of STARI remains unknown.
e. If you have tick DNA related needs, please reach out to Robyn.

f. Rickettsia amblyommii is not considered a pathogen, but can be used as an indicator for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.
   i. The Tick Testing Lab reviews the banding pattern to confirm the type of Rickettsia.
   ii. Their lab very rarely finds Rickettsia rickettsia (2011 paper).

g. Currently all testing is DNA based.
   i. Hoping to start testing RNA because many tick-borne diseases are viruses.

h. Collaborating with USDA on a surveillance project in Maryland, open to additional collaborations.
   i. Jill: Question about DoD locations for ticks: What New York area location is this?
      i. Robyn will have to check to confirm what site this is.

j. Monica: There seems to be a lack of participation in the Rocky Mountain states, is that because those regions aren’t interested, or because they don’t know about the Tick Testing Lab as a resource?
   i. It could be a mixture of both, because personnel move around it’s harder to establish the program in areas where less people are bitten by ticks.
   ii. Monica will be in contact with Robyn to help increase awareness in the Rocky Mountain states.

k. Sue: Will you accept ticks from an air force base? Yes, all DoD affiliates (marines, army, air force etc.).
   i. Sue will be in touch with Robyn to get tick kits at the Arkansas air force base.

l. Jill: LDA conference, Dr. Garth Ehrlich is developing a new tick testing that could be useful to use in the near future. Is there any research on the forest fires burning in California for reducing the tick population numbers?
   i. The group is unaware of any research being done on these fires.
   ii. Robyn’s study has to do with annual landscape control burns (used for other ecological reasons) impact on tick populations.
   iii. Kirby’s study focused on the burn consuming the litter layer, complete burn reduced populations, but if litter was left then many ticks survived.

m. For collecting ticks from members of the DoD—is it just enlisted or is it also family members?
   i. Families and contractors are included.

n. Jennifer: Slide nine, why is the peak in collection at that time?
   i. Moved ROTC training to tick habitat.
      1. Cadet training in Fort Knox changed the timing of when most ticks are sent in.

o. Karla: Seminar for CDC center for excellence for vector-borne diseases recommended?
   i. Is anyone studying whether or not the tick information is changing clinical outcomes.
      1. How clinically relevant is the data? There is a lot of privacy surrounding the people who submit the ticks, so it is hard to verify clinical outcomes.
      2. It would be great to overlay surveillance data with clinical outcomes, but personal medical information needs to be protected.

3. Brief update on the Public Tick IPM Working Group grant
   a. The RFA for the annual grant that funds our working group has been released for 2018-2019 by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Crop Protection and Pest Management Program through the North Central IPM Center.
   b. IPM Institute is still finishing up the objectives for this coming year. Frank will share them with the listserv as soon as they are available.
c. Frank will also send out information regarding Letters of Support to the listserv as soon as possible.

4. Additional updates, comments and announcements from Working Group members
   a. Performance Indicators for CDC’s Programs for Vector-Borne Diseases
      a. Bruce Fries has invited us to propose performance indicators for tick-borne diseases to be included in CDC’s congressional justification for FY 2019.
      b. The deadline for comments is October 27th. The proposal will be submitted to the HHS Strategic Planning Lead.
   b. Jill Auerbach: Something that the CDC needs to focus on is how to protect people against tick-borne pathogens. Since there is no money to use Nootkatone for ticks, it should be a top priority.
      a. Nootkatone is derived from cedar, is toxic to mosquitos and ticks. CDC has a patent on this – Marc Dolan developed a soap.
      i. Evolva bought the patent for mosquitoes.
   c. Welcome new member, Bieneke Bron from the Midwest center of excellence for vector-borne diseases: Susan Paskewitz and Lyric Bartholomay are the leads. Scott Larson and Bieneke Bron are post docs.
      a. Bieneke’s background is as a veterinarian from the Netherlands who just finished her PhD at UW-Madison.
   d. Please notify Frank if the Tick Pest Alert has been shared with any new organizations or individuals so we can keep track of its reach!
      a. Here is the link to share: https://www.ncipmc.org/action/alerts/ticks.pdf
   e. If you come across articles that would benefit members of this group feel free to share them by sending an email to the PUBLIC_TICK_IPM_WG@LISTSERV.URI.EDU

These notes are for a Working Group call on October 11th. Future calls will continue to fall on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 PM Central time. Please send Frank updates, announcements or other additions for October’s call.

The Public Tick IPM Working Group is funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Crop Protection and Pest Management Program through the North Central IPM Center.