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 9th, 2019

Roll

1. Abigail Matthewson, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
2. Bob Maurais, Mainely Ticks
3. Brittany Campbell, National Pest Management Association
4. Dawn Gouge, University of Arizona
5. Heather Szerlong, Ticknology LLC
6. Joellen Mari Lampman, Cornell University
7. Kirby Stafford, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
8. Lauren Mordini, IPM Institute
9. Maria Weber, IPM Institute
10. Mason Kauffman, US BIOLOGIC
11. Monica White, Colorado Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Association
12. Rayda Krell, Western Connecticut State University
13. Tim Fox, Madison Area Lyme Disease Support Group
14. Tom Green, IPM Institute
15. Tom Mather, TickEncounter, University of Rhode Island

Agenda

1. Complete first draft of the National Asian Longhorned Tick Pest Alert
   a. Pest Alert draft: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z4krpefiO7ct4KdePKddllftbFM4_c2adTwWZLZrOX/edit?usp=sharing
2. Updates, comments and announcements from the working group members

A recording of this call and presentation is available by visiting this link: https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/d1bbd8f115a613535408ceef343c4bc839177edd76930db0abac59ab19a6b3989

Introduction

- Dawn: Prioritize stating the most important points in the introduction
- Kirby: Intruder Alert: Longhorned Tick from the Northeast Vector Borne Disease COE
  - Started off with key facts
    - Key pieces of information that you want people to know
      - Example: ALT would not bite people in Fort Collins and Atlanta studies
- Dawn: University of Arizona Cooperative Extension document on ALT
Introduction: ALT is a serious pest of livestock in other countries and potential effects of US establishment
  ▪ Important to include: Does not appear that it will be a major human pest

Tom Mather: Don’t want to be too redundant regarding what information we include in the alert
  o Newly recognized invasive species in which knowledge about it is developing and changing in a dynamic way
  o Set expectation right at the beginning that there are things that we do not know
    ▪ From Tom’s experience in TickEncounter, people are highly suggestive and consider written information as being static and overinterpret without considering further developments
      ▪ Example: Tick found in Maine
        o Person was certain that the tick was an ALT but it was not

Tim Fox: Considering constant developments, could we call the Pest Alert an interim report?
  o Tom Green: That will be up to us more than North Central IPM Center

Tom Mather: reasonable to think about a March release as well
  o Kirby: Prepare outline and images, then insert new information
    ▪ Tom: Decide what the most current talking points are from there
    ▪ Copywrite-free images of ALT
      ▪ Lorenza Beati at Georgia Southern University, US National Tick Collection
      ▪ CDC library

Origin and Distribution
  • Map: Georgia Wildlife and USDA have been tracking
  • Monthly situation reports from USDA
    o October 4 update:
  • Someone has put together a “story map” from USDA
    o Reflects evolving ALT distribution
  • New York seems to have longest running phenology collection
    o Tom Daniels and Rich Falco
      ▪ A bunch in Westchester County in terms of identifying life cycle and phenology

Life Cycle and Identification
  • Kirby: ALT has a high propensity for feeding on white-tailed deer
  • Tom Mather: Do not know how much longer the USDA will continue to treat the ALT with special interest?
    o Most interested in reports of ALT on new hosts and in new counties and states
      ▪ Have relaxed certain requirements for reporting in counties where it has already been found
      ▪ Do not require molecular or veterinary services confirmation of states it has already been found
        • Kirby: Example: ALT has only been found in one county in Connecticut, but now the USDA will not require molecular ID for other counties in CT
Human Health Concerns

- Monica: What do we know about human health concerns in other countries?
  - What confidence do we have that new regional illnesses will not develop?
    - Tom Mather: Want to be careful that we do not underplay vector competence
      - Need to wait for studies to be published on vector competence to speak upon simply document what it can transmit in other places until proven otherwise
  - Tom Green: Let’s see if we can get a handle on research release dates and then decide when to release the Pest Alert
    - Eg: Tick-borne disease tick alert was postponed due to new map coming out
  - Kirby: CDC will have something coming out soon as they are studying their colonies
    - Tom Mather: Agreed, has reviewed papers and it is in the works
  - Tom Mather: Let’s not speculate versus scaring people

Animal Health Concerns

- Introduction: ALT is a serious pest of livestock in other countries
  - Important to include: Does not appear that it will be a major human pest

Reporting a Suspected Asian Longhorned Tick

- USDA: Guideline for reporting that should be respected
  - Some organizations and institutions have slightly differing reporting guidelines
    - Most send specimens to USDA
  - Resources for Reporting Guidelines:
    - Andrea Egizi, Center for Vector Biology at Rutgers
    - Denise Bonilla, USDA

Updates and Announcements on the Tick IPM Academy

- Registration has been filled! Thank you all for your assistance in spreading the word
- Seeking donations of specimens from your area to examine
  - Donations can be sent to:
    - The IPM Institute of North America, Inc.
    - ATTN: Maria Weber
    - 211 S. Paterson Street, Suite 380
    - Madison, Wisconsin 53703 USA

- Tom: Susan Paskewitz and perhaps Bieneke Bron will be handling tick identification
  - Kirby: Teaches a tick identification bootcamp
    - Send materials to Susan?
- Dawn: Considering organizing an event like the Tick IPM Academy in Arizona

Updates, Comments and Announcements from the Working Group Members

- Tim Fox: Monica White circulated a webinar, “Ticks & Fire: Can long-term prescribed fire be used to reduce tick-borne disease risk?” Tim was having issues opening the link
  - Monica will resend the document to everyone
Monica: On the topic of specimens, is there a source for purchasing ticks that have been preserved in acrylic or lucite for demonstration in prevention programs
  o Kirby: Biological supply centers used to sell specimens, but they are not all that readily available
    ▪ Oklahoma State does rear ticks and some preserved specimens can be purchased through them
  o Rayda Krell: Neeta Connally has created identification cards with real ticks laminated on the cards
    ▪ Portable tick for demonstration purposes
  o Kirby: Wants to make round clear stickers to show real size

2020 North Central IPM Center Working Group RFA
  • IPM Symposium fits into this funding cycle regarding preparing items to discuss
    o March 2021 in Denver
  • Call for session proposals will likely be out sometime this winter

These notes are for a Working Group call on October 9th, 2019. Future calls will continue to fall on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 PM Central time.

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