



Philadelphia School & Community IPM Partnership (PSCIP)

A Newsletter for PA IPM's PSCIP Program
"Empowering individuals and communities to safely manage pests
through education and training."

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Fall 2011

Immigrant Environmental Health Forum Cosponsored by PSCIP



Maria Gorgo-Gourovitch speaking at forum.

The Pennsylvania IPM Program (PA IPM) and Natural Pest Control Inc. of Philadelphia cosponsored an EPA Region III forum that addressed environmental challenges facing immigrant communities in Philadelphia.

Held November 2 at Drexel University, "Beyond Translation Forum 2011: Healthy Environment

For Healthy Communities" explored ideas for improving services to Asian, Hispanic, and African immigrant communities. The forum offered important information on environmental issues that impact health and greening our communities.

Maria Gorgo-Gourovitch, PA IPM's Latino community outreach coordinator, presented "Disproportional Risks from Pest & Pesticides in Minority and Low-Income Populations" in the afternoon break-out session. "Often times, immigrants are faced with poor housing conditions, including pest infestations," Gorgo-Gourovitch explains. "People may not know where to go for help. If using pesticides, they have difficulty reading and understanding label instructions." For more information on the need for Spanish labeling, go to <http://www.citizen.org/documents/Comments-Bilingual-Pesticide-Labeling-2011-06-28.pdf>.

In addition, an exhibit hall featured various organizations and community groups participating in the forum. For more information about the event, go to <http://www.epa.gov/region03/beyondtranslation.html> or contact Norman Rodriguez at rodriguez.norman@epa.gov.

Natural Pest Control Inc. tries to hire a diverse staff in order to better serve the Philadelphia community. To find out more about their IPM services, contact them at (215) 276-2962.

PSCIP Partners Host EPA Director of Children's Environmental Health

The Neighborhood Interfaith Movement (NIM) in Philadelphia recently hosted a meeting with PSCIP and the EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection to discuss common goals.

Dr. Peter Grevatt, office director and the senior advisor to the EPA, along with other EPA officials including Prentiss Ward, Region III Children's Health coordinator; David Campbell, director of the Office of Environmental Innovation; and Matthew Davis, health scientist with the Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education, were in attendance.

The group discussed the successes and challenges of protecting children's health in Philadelphia. Grevatt is responsible for ensuring that all EPA decisions across the country are protective of children's health and that EPA is an international leader on children's environmental health issues. In Pennsylvania, Ward's office seeks to increase the knowledge and awareness of children's environmental health issues among health care professionals, school administrators and the general public.

The group also discussed IPM trainings and materials for

(see page 3)

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In This Issue:

- Immigrant Environmental Health Forum
- PSCIP Partners Host EPA
- New EPA Rules for Toxic Rodent Control Products
- PSCIP Expands Outreach
- PSCIP Annual Meeting Canceled
- Philly Child Care Directors Featured
- Web Sites and Upcoming Events

New EPA Rules for Toxic Rodent Control Products

PA IPM and The Poison Control Center based at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are joining forces to educate Philadelphians about the importance of EPA's new law to protect children, pets and wildlife from accidental exposure to rodent control products.

On June 7, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced its plans to ban the sale of some popular household mouse and rat poisons along with most loose bait and pellet products. Since rodenticides are pesticides designed to kill mammals by thinning blood, they can pose a special risk for accidental poisoning of humans and their pets. In addition, rodenticides in pellet form are especially risky for children.

Fortunately, only a small number of exposed children suffer adverse health effects. However, children in low-income families are disproportionately at risk of exposure. This information may be particularly important for the residents of Philadelphia. According to The Poison Control Center, children aged 12 and under account for 65% of the children exposed to rodenticides in the Philadelphia County. In addition, in 20 percent of the rodenticide exposures reported, the actual products were unknown to the caller. This indicates that many people are unaware of the specific pesticides they are using, and are not reading the product labels. Such information is critical to have on hand when calling the Poison Control Centers so that a proper course of action can be advised.

Also, some of the exposure calls involved the use of illegal pesticides. Such products do not have a proper chemical identification, nor instructions on use. Unfortunately many people don't even know their purchasing an illegal product since they are often found in many small neighborhood stores. These non-approved EPA pesticides come in many shapes and forms and claim to get rid of various household pests. Such products may come in unmarked baggies and include such names as "Tres Pasitos", "Chinese Chalk" and



illegal naphthalene mothballs that are colored and look like candy.

"Tres Pasitos" is imported illegally from Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Its active ingredient is a very toxic chemical called aldicarb. People exposed to aldicarb can suffer weakness, blurred vision, headache, nausea, vomiting, tearing, sweating, tremors, and, in high doses, death due to paralysis of the nervous system.

PA IPM and the Poison Control Center at CHOP recommend IPM practices as the best way of controlling rodents like rats and mice. This is achieved by combining the tactics that are most effective, including prevention through sanitation, rodent-proofing and removal of rodent harborage, and other alternatives to pesticides. Make sure that there are no sources of food (such as trash cans without lids, or pet food left outside) or water, such as leaking pipes or hydrants, or standing puddles.

Keeping rats out of your house is easier than catching them inside! Look for any openings in your outside wall bigger than a quarter. These may be where pipe or wires enter the building: poorly sealed windows or doors; missing mortar, bricks or siding; or any other opening into the building. Seal these with rat-proof materials. Outdoor rat burrows can be reported to the City of Philadelphia Vector Control Program, who will come and treat the burrows. Contact them at (215) 685-9000. For more information on keeping rats out, visit <http://www.phila.gov/health/pdfs/RATS.pdf> (English only). For comprehensive information about preventing rats on your property, visit [http://home2.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/pest/](http://home2.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/pest/rodent_control.pdf)

[rodent_control.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/pest/rodent_control.pdf) (English) or http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/pest/rodent_control-sp.pdf (Spanish).

Some cities have begun campaigns to raise awareness about dangerous rodenticide products and urge retailers to remove them from their shelves. Find out more about San Francisco's "Don't Take the Bait" campaign at <http://www.sfapproved.org/rodents>.

The safest way for catching mice in the home is to use snap traps. Newer models of snap traps are set by simply squeezing the back. This avoids snapping fingers while setting and releasing and it prevents contact with the rodent. The snapping side should be set toward the wall and baited with peanut butter. Snap traps kill the mouse instantly and they prevent the rodents from dying in inaccessible places (e.g. behind the walls) and causing unpleasant odors.

To learn more on how to eliminate mice and rats, you can read a copy of the PA IPM brochure "Is There a Mouse in the House?" at <http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/resources/factsheets/Rodentsbrochure.pdf>. In addition, EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mice-and-rats/consumer-prod.html#choosing> informs consumers about less-risky rodenticides and types of tamper-resistance packaging to keep kids & pets safer.

To read EPA's full article on the new restrictions on rodenticide products, go to <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/advpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/5689a230c1490219852578a80053a4b7!OpenDocument>.

PSCIP Partners Host EPA Director

(continued from page 1)



Dr. Peter Grevatt, EPA

child care centers in both English and Spanish as a way to ensure children's environmental health in these settings.

The meeting was organized by NIM's Early Learning Alliance, a full-service early child care training agency that helps child care professionals acquire the skills, information and resources they need to create top-notch child care facilities in Philadelphia. "PSCIP is an important part in our efforts to help early childhood education in providing a safe and healthy learning environment," says Howard Tucker, NIM outreach coordinator.

Recent studies indicate both pests and pesticides can cause and aggravate asthma and other health issues, especially in children. According to Michelle Niedermeier, PSCIP coordinator, indoor air quality is severely impacted by high pest populations and repeated use of pesticides that leave chemical residues. "After educating caregivers about these risks and safer solutions, new approaches and steps can be implemented to reduce risk of exposure in this setting."

Urban residents in cities such as Philadelphia face health risks from a variety of environmental pollutants and toxins both indoors and out. "Particularly in

low-income urban communities, exposure to pests and pesticides can threaten people's health, especially children, pregnant women and the elderly," Niedermeier explains. "Pests can spread disease and trigger asthma, yet pesticide use indoors can also be harmful. There is a great unmet need for community education on more effective and least-toxic IPM solutions."

A podcast about children's health can be found on EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/childhealth/index.htm#why>. For more information on PSCIP, including meeting minutes, partners in the initiative, and current and future activities, visit Web site <http://www.pscip.org/>. For more information on IPM, see PA IPM's website at <http://www.paipm.org>. For more information on IPM in Spanish, go to <http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/resources/espanol>.

PSCIP Annual Meeting Canceled

The usual annual PSCIP Meeting has been canceled. Instead, we will be meeting with small groups of our partners to focus on strategic initiatives surrounding Healthy Homes, children's health, and green jobs.

The dates, times and locations of these meetings have yet to be determined, but if you are interested in joining us for one or more of these gatherings, please contact Michelle Niedermeier at mxn14@psu.edu.

PSCIP Expands Outreach via Radio, TV

Recently, Maria Gorgo-Gourovitch, PA IPM's Latino community outreach coordinator, was interviewed on the radio program De Paisano a Paisano (WTTM 1680 AM Radio, Wednesdays 10 - 11 a.m.). The interview was conducted in Spanish by the Consul of Mexico in Philadelphia, Min. Carlos Giralt-Cabrales.

Geared towards the Hispanic community, Gorgo-Gourovitch discussed various topics on IPM practices and the program's efforts to reach out the Spanish-speaking community in the state and beyond. "It was an amazing opportunity to educate a large audience in both urban and agricultural settings," she says. Gorgo-Gourovitch explained what IPM is and how to use it to control pests, the consequences of pests and pesticides, awareness of illegal pesticides, why it is critical to read pesticide and household cleaning products' labels for information, and upcoming workshops and trainings offered by PSCIP.

Gorgo-Gourovitch also appeared on Comcast Newsmakers to discuss similar topics in a five-minute interview that has been running during the last five minutes on CNN Headline News three days a week in the Philly market.

In addition, Gorgo-Gourovitch was featured on podcasts for EPA's Children's Health Month. For the podcast links, go to <http://www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/childhealth/index.htm#why>.

Have Something to Contribute?

If you have information to contribute, or would like to be added to our newsletter e-mail listserv, please contact Michelle Niedermeier, PSCIP Coordinator, at 215-471-2200 Ext. 109, or e-mail at pscip@psu.edu. Any portion of this newsletter may be reprinted with acknowledgement given to the PA IPM Program.

Philadelphia Child Care Directors Featured



Rhonda Griffin, co-owner of Pest Free Maintenance, is filmed conducting an outdoor inspection of a Philadelphia child care center.

Building on PSCIP relationships with Philadelphia child cares, a new project with the city's child care directors will promote safer and healthier indoor environments in these facilities.

The Pennsylvania IPM Program has been collaborating with Penn State Cooperative Extension to develop the "Go Green for Kids Initiative" as part of their Better Kid Care Program. Part of the project is to develop a training module for extension educators to deliver to facility managers and child care directors. Topics will include how directors can improve indoor air quality in their facilities, how to manage pests safely, and how to contract with an IPM service provider. Once developed, this module will also be available as online lessons.

According to Amber Brunskill, PA IPM education specialist, the module guides child care directors, administrators, and facility managers through a step-by-step process to evaluate key aspects of their indoor environments to make them healthier and safer for young children. "The module explores the connection between children's health and indoor environments of early learning facili-

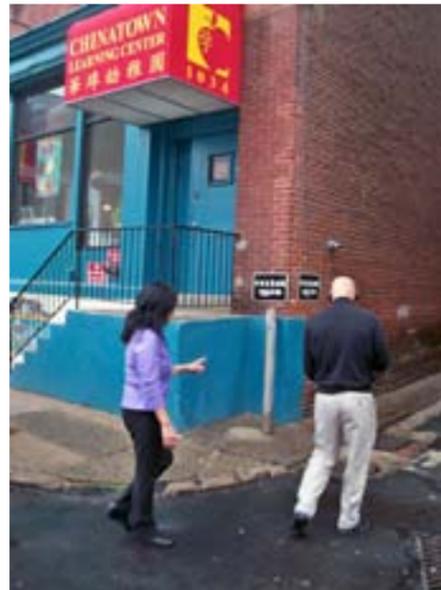
ties," she explains. "Poor ventilation, the use of chemical cleaners and air fresheners, and pests and pesticides can all contribute to poor air quality." Solutions include maintaining ventilations systems, using green cleaning alternatives, avoiding toxic craft supplies and air fresheners, and preventing pest problems through sanitation and exclusion measures.

The new training module will contain an instructor manual, handouts, and video clips from Penn State and Philadelphia child-care facilities. Video segments provide how-to demonstrations on sanitation practices such as cleaning and repairing leaking pipes and



Demonstrating the proper way to set a mouse trap.

screen doors; storing chemicals/cleaners out of the reach of children; fixing cracks and holes where pests can enter; how to interview a pest management professional before hiring; how to conduct indoor and outdoor inspections; and testimonials of child care staff using IPM methods.



Scenes for the video were shot at various Philadelphia child care centers.

The module is second in a series of trainings the collaboration will be producing and will be available summer 2012. The first module, "Healthy Air + Healthy Spaces = Healthy Children", is currently being delivered to educators and meets professional development requirements for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Keystone STARS, and Pennsylvania Department of Education Act 48 Continuing Education Credits. It is available through the PA IPM's child care web site at <http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/childcare> and will be a part of the Better Kid Care on-demand trainings at website <http://betterkidcare.psu.edu/>.

Useful Web Sites and Information

PA IPM Program Blog
<http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/news>

University of Minnesota Bed Bug Resource Center
<http://bedbugs.umn.edu/>

Reducing your Child's Asthma Using IPM Publication
http://www.ipminstitute.org/school_ipm_2015/ipm_asthma_document.pdf

EPA Healthy Child Care Directory
<http://epa.gov/childcare/>

PA IPM's Greener Cleaner Recipes Brochure
<http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/resources/factsheets/greener-cleaner.pdf/view>

PSCIP offers IPM Education and Training



PSCIP offers educational and hands-on training sessions on IPM for diverse audiences in varied environments and settings across Pennsylvania.

PSCIP educational programs and train-the-trainer sessions can be tailored to meet the needs of your audience, and provide evidence-based information from basic to advanced. Educational programs include:

- General IPM Overview
- IPM in the Curriculum

- IPM for Youth
- Public Educational Outreach and Informational Displays
- Train-the-trainer sessions include:
 - IPM for Housing Managers
 - IPM for School Facility Managers
 - Essentials of Healthy Housing for Practitioners
 - IPM in Multi-family Housing
 - Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers

Trainings are available in English and Spanish. For more information go to <http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/program/education-and-training> or contact the program at (215) 471-2200, Ext. 109, e-mail pscip@psu.edu.

Upcoming Events:

December 2, 2011 - **The Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council Conference** Willow Valley Resort, Lancaster, Pa.
<http://chesapeakelandscaping.org>

December 6-8, 2011 - **36th Annual 2011 Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference**, The Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ
<http://www.njturfgrass.org/files/pdfs/OnSiteBrochuresm.pdf>

December 9, 2011 - **The Virtual School Walkthrough Webinar: Identifying and Solving Common IAQ Problems**

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/345795698>

December 15, 2011 - **Pesticide Exposures and Effective Policies Webinar**
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ntsip/>

January 12, 2011 - **Best Practices and Policies for Eliminating Chemical Releases and Exposures in Schools Webinar**
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ntsip/>

PSCIP News

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The Philadelphia School & Community IPM Partnership (PSCIP) seeks to empower individuals and communities to safely manage pests through education and training. For more information on PSCIP's programs and partners, see our Web site at <http://www.pscip.org>.