

WIPMC Collaborations & Partnerships

Highlights of Western Integrated Pest Management Center Collaborations and Partnerships

Collaborations. The Western IPM Center fosters collaborations among multidisciplinary researchers and practitioners in the West to improve the economic benefits of adopting IPM practices and to reduce the potential risks to human health and the environment caused by pests and pest management practices. A major benefit of collaborations is that they create new synergies among people and programs, greatly enhancing impacts in the region and leveraging federal dollars.

Partnerships. The Western IPM Center participates in partnerships with a variety of programs and organizations, including the other three Regional IPM Centers. The WIPMC and its partners work together toward common goals, keep each other informed about new initiatives and funding opportunities, support and promote each other's programs, and work toward minimizing duplication of efforts. The better we understand our partners, the more we are able to facilitate connections, communication, and collaboration among researchers and practitioners, multiplying the IPM-related impacts in the West.

Highlights of Collaborations Fostered through WIPMC-Funded Projects

Work Group: Western Region Structural Pest IPM

This regional work group brought together a diversity of indoor IPM stakeholders from five western states and included university specialists, state regulatory staff, professional applicators, and inspectors. The group's goal was to use education to reduce the number of inaccurate wood-destroying organism inspections and the potential health risks from pesticide misapplications. Key objectives were to 1) enhance communication and collaborations on structural pest IPM in urban residences and schools in the West, 2) assess regional priorities for demonstration workshops and training programs, 3) develop an education plan and training curriculum, and 4) prioritize regional research needs related to structural pest IPM.



Collaboration Outcomes

- A new IPM curriculum was developed for trainings at Washington State University's Western Region Structural Pest Research and Demonstration Facility.



- A pilot course was conducted at the Structural Pest Research and Demonstration Facility. Inspectors and pest management professionals obtained hands-on experience identifying wood destroying organisms, their damage, and the conditions that are conducive to infestation by examining damaged wood, insect frass, and other signs.
- Alternative control techniques were identified as the priority research need for structural pest IPM in the western United States. Alternatives to perimeter applications could reduce potential runoff and water contamination.
- Regional communication and collaboration increased among structural pest stakeholders.

Special Issues Project: Preventing Ticks on Pets to Reduce Incidence of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

The brown dog tick is a host of Rocky Mountain Spotted fever, a potentially fatal illness. The transference of the host tick to household dogs, and then to humans, caused 60 cases of the disease in eastern Arizona during 2003–2008, with six fatalities on the San Carlos and White Mountain Apache Reservations. While it appears that knowledge of the disease and the ticks that cause it may be fairly high on the reservations, the actual use of techniques to rid pets and homes of ticks has still been low. The group's goal was to distribute educational flyers and tick-prevention dog collars at clinics and through home visits on the reservations, and to demonstrate how to keep homes and pets free of ticks. Specific project objectives included 1) meeting with local spay and neuter clinic personnel to determine the need for educational flyers, dog collars, and other possible materials, 2) determining when to distribute educational flyers and dog collars and how to provide educational demonstrations on each reservation, and then distributing the materials, and 3) evaluating the effectiveness of the materials distribution.



Mat Pound, USDA-ARS, Bigwood.org

Collaboration Outcomes

- Four hundred and fifty-four dog collars were distributed at White Mountain Reservation, and 5,000 flyers and 64 dog

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- collars were distributed at San Carlos reservation. Five thousand dog collars were left for future use.
- Health personnel, veterinary students, and volunteers provided numerous tick prevention demonstrations at two spay and neuter clinics and two rabies clinics as well as on household visits on each reservation.
 - With more access to educational materials on tick prevention and sample dog collars, reservation residents were more likely to control ticks around their residences and on their pets.
 - If more residents adopt the tick prevention strategies, the incidences of Rocky Mountain Spotted fever cases and fatalities will go down, leaving healthy pets and homes and a healthier community.



Addressing Western IPM Issues Project: Potato IPM Scouting Manual (A Pocket Guide in English and Spanish)



The Pacific Northwest is the U.S. leader in potato production, and Idaho is the number one state for commercial potatoes. As identified in the *Pest Management Strategic Plan for Pacific Northwest Potato Production*, the potato industry recognizes the value of increasing IPM practices through outreach activities for Spanish-speaking field workers. In response to the lack of field scouting manuals for IPM, and seeking to target Spanish-speaking field workers, this project's objectives included 1) developing a potato IPM scouting manual that would fill unmet pest management needs in

Pacific Northwest potato production, 2) designing and publishing the manual as a pocket guide in English and Spanish, and 3) providing training on the use of the manual to Extension personnel, growers, and state lead agencies who would subsequently train farm laborers.

Collaboration Outcomes

- The manual was completed, printed, and distributed, and includes two pages for each pest—one in English and one in Spanish—with photos for every pest.
- There has been a large demand by farmers for copies to use with their Spanish-speaking crews. The idea of targeting Spanish speakers has been successful for scouting purposes.
- Approximately 100 Spanish-speaking farm workers and farm managers have been trained in the use of the manual.
- It is expected that as Spanish-speaking field crews use the manual for field scouting, early pest identification will increase the use of IPM and reduce pesticide use in potatoes.

WIPMC Partnerships

The WIPMC maintains close communication and coordination with the other three Regional IPM Centers and works in partnership with many organizations in the West, including:

- **Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (WSARE):** WIPMC Director Rick Melnicoe serves on WSARE's Administrative Council, and the WSARE Director serves on the WIPMC's Advisory and Steering Committees.
- **Regions 8, 9, and 10 of the Environmental Protection Agency:** An EPA representative is on the WIPMC Advisory Committee, and staff from the two programs serve on review panels for each other's competitive grant programs.
- **Western Plant Diagnostic Network (WPDN):** Rick Melnicoe serves on WPDN's Steering Committee, and the WPDN Associate Director serves on the WIPMC's Advisory Committee.
- **National Clean Plant Network (NCPN):** The Regional IPM Centers are partnering with NCPN to raise awareness among growers, retail outlets, and the public about the importance of using clean plant stock (free of pathogens and other pests).
- **Region 10 Water Quality Program:** The WIPMC partnered with University of Idaho Extension and the Region 10 Water Program on a one-day IPM and Water Quality Symposium. Outcomes include a proposal for a region-wide Extension/Education and Research Activity group focused on best management practices to reduce pesticide impacts on water quality in the West.
- **Western Region IR-4:** The Western IR-4 Field Coordinator serves on the WIPMC Advisory Committee, and WIPMC Director Rick Melnicoe is the Regional IPM Centers' liaison to IR-4. Regular communications are maintained between the two regional offices, as they are headquartered in the same building at UC Davis.



Fostering responsible pest management for a sustainable future.



Western Integrated Pest Management Center

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