School IPM Focus

Are you doing pest control in your schools legally? The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Entomology and Pest Control Bureau Chief updated the section of Florida Regulatory Information on our School IPM website. Here is an excerpt of what you will find:

If approved by the school district, school employees who apply pesticides must either:

- Obtain a limited certificate in structural pest control (if applying pesticides indoors), or lawn and ornamental pest control (if applying pesticides outdoors).
- Use only "ready-to-use" pesticides purchased over the counter at retail (not provided by wholesalers of pesticides).
- Operate under a fully certified pest control operator employed by the school district.

Violations of Chapter 482, F.S. are subject to fines up to $5,000.00 per violation, and, can become second degree misdemeanors.

To contact FDACS, Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control call (850) 617-7997.

In our next newsletter, we will unveil the 2013 training dates for Pest Management University that can aid in school PMP compliance.

As always for more information on pests or on developing an IPM program please visit our website.

Are you a Green Ribbon School?

We worked with Penny Detscher, Director of Healthy Schools in Florida to incorporate meaningful measures of IPM into this year’s application and we encourage you to apply!

The National Green Ribbon Schools Program is built on three pillars:

1. Environmental impact and energy efficiency
2. Health school environment
3. Environmental sustainability education

Background: In its first pilot year, the US-ED awarded 78 first-ever Green Ribbon Schools (GRS) nationwide. The Florida Department of Education (DOE) nominated three FL schools which were recognized in Washington, DC at the US-ED awards ceremony in June 2012. The
Florida GRS winner schools are: Learning Gate Community School, Hillsborough County Public Schools; Pine Jog Elementary School, the School District of Palm Beach County; and TERRA Environmental Research Institute, Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The Florida DOE will participate on the second year of the GRS program. The APPLICATION is now available and may be submitted beginning now and will be open for submission until November 30, 2012.

Green Ribbon Schools Timeline:

- School Application submissions to Florida Department of Education due by November 30, 2012
- Florida Department of Education nominee submissions due by February 15th, 2013
- U.S Department of Education selection of nominees will be on April 22nd, 2013
- Award ceremony will be held June 3rd, 2013 in Washington, DC

Last Call for this Training Opportunity

Don’t miss out on the only Master of GHP class for 2012!

Date: Oct 24-26, 2012; W-F
Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC
Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)
Cost: $350

Registration will close on Oct 19, 2012; Friday. (Note: Registration deadlines are earlier than most CEU classes because each class is tailored for the folks enrolled, so we require time to print the material that will be distributed for each class and gather supplies for the hands-on training.)

Registration Form

You must have graduated from the Foundations of GHP in order to attend the Masters class. We will focus on stinging and biting arthropods and pests that can vector diseases. Contact Faith for more information.

News!

We hope you will submit news items and would be happy to help you write a story if you have an idea but don’t have the time to write up the information. This newsletter will be published as content arrives, please keep the information flowing! Please send news items to Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman.

Visit our website for back issues of Florida School IPM News. You can scan the QR code on the right with your smart phone or tablet to get there faster. You will need a QR code reader!