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Past Issues

Online Training Available:

<https://eces.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Pest Management in and Around Structures:

<http://www.eXtension.org/>

Contact Us:

<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>

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School IPM Focus- Good Neighbors

The goal of the development of the Good Neighbor Practices (GNPs) Program is to reduce the risk of pesticide drift exposure for children at school and to increase communication between school personnel and neighboring agricultural landowners. Since urbanization has increased the number of schools in close proximity to agricultural lands, there have been several high profile reports concerning pesticide drift and school children.

In this issue we will give you some additional information about our GNP program and give you a chance to share your thoughts with a link to a **short survey**.

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

Know The Facts: Our Methods



In this project we surveyed Florida schools and their neighboring agricultural landowners to determine and document if pesticide drift was perceived as a problem for the schools and how the distance between the schools and the agricultural operations affected this perception. We also documented what, if any GNPs were already being successfully employed.

Emphasis On Results

Most of the responding schools were greater than 1 mile away from an agricultural operation and only 2 schools out of 727 schools that responded, reported pesticide drift as an issue with a neighbor. Both of the schools who had reported incidents suggested that they had a positive relationship with their neighboring farmers and were able to resolve the issues with little interference to school or agricultural activities. Our data are supported by the low number of complaints on a per capita basis received by Florida DACS pesticide surveillance.

We developed a brochure based on the results to help schools develop a communication plan. It is designed for extension faculty to share with schools in their area to help schools prepare for the unlikely chance of a drift incidence; in 2011 every Florida Extension Office was given 100 brochures at EPAF.

We believe that improving communication with neighbors can not only reduce the risk of drift related issues, but it can also improve the public perception of commercial agriculture.

Read All About It

We are pleased to have some material to share with you so you can continue working with your school district and neighbors to develop GNPs that make sense for your unique location.

Please visit this web page for information on GNPs including a helpful brochure and tips on making a plan for your site:

<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/Florida/goodneighbors.htm>

Want brochures for your school district? **Let us know!** Want to take the survey? **Follow this link!**

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!