

Award Category: Local IPM Program
Nominee Name: Spring Independent School District IPM Team
Nominee Title:
Nominee Affiliation: Spring Independent School District
Nominee E-mail: cadams@springisd.org
Nominee Phone: 281 891-6425
Nominator Name: Brownlow, John
Nominator Company: Spring ISD
Nominator Title: Executive Director
Nominator Phone: 281 891-6326
Nominator E-mail: cadams@springisd.org
Supporting Document: SUBMITTED

Vita:

Improving economic benefits related to IPM adoption: Checked

Reducing potential human health risks: Checked

Minimizing adverse environmental effects: Checked

Brief Summary of Nominee's or Program's Accomplishments (500 words or less):

My name is John Brownlow, the Executive Director for Human Resources for SISD. I would like to nominate our SISD IPM team for this award.

- C.G. Cezeaux has over 38 years in education.
- David Henderson IMP Coordinator with over 25 years in the industry including IPM in schools and commercial processing.
- Hoa Phan has been a certified applicator for 5 years.

The SISD is an urban school district in Harris County, located 20 miles north of Houston, Texas. The District serves over 36,000 students, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, housed in 40 campuses over 57 square miles. We have three high schools, a career academy, an early college, seven middle schools, twenty six elementary schools. Our newest elementary school is a LEED-certified gold school focused on discovery based learning. The greatest challenge has been the District's rapid growth. SISD enrollment grew by 17 percent over the past 5 years. As a result, the district has had to acquire close to one hundred portable buildings to offset this growth.

In our early phases of IPM adoption, approximately 55% of our pesticide use was what the state classified as Red or Yellow category pesticides. As our pest management program has evolved:

- They have successfully switched to 100% use of Green category, or lowest-risk pesticides.
- Although Texas requires all IPM coordinators to attend IPM training every three years for six hours of training, we choose to attend the required training every year. In addition, our IPM staff attends three additional continuing education classes (21 hours) yearly.
- In 2006, we added an additional applicator, Hoa Phan, to form our current, three-person, IPM team.
- As a team, we have changed to a proactive mode and have brought our products to 100% green in March of 2010.
- They do not use any sprays in the interior of our buildings.
- Since 2005, when we started our IPM program we have not had to increase our budget.
- They have reduced the amount of chemical applications by 70% and only use green or environmentally friendly products.
- In 2009 the National IPM Institute of North America awarded David Henderson the IPM in Childcare Facilities and Schools Award.
- Our District was awarded an IPM Star Award for exceeding a Rigorous Standard for IPM in 2011.
- They have done a webinar with Facility Masters.

- They have presented at the Facility Master and TIPMAPS Symposium in San Marcos on Creative Monitoring.

They have remained committed to helping other schools achieve the same level of success we have enjoyed. Since 2009, David and C.G have worked to help establish the Texas Integrated Pest Management Affiliates for Public Schools (TIPMAPS) organization in Texas. C.G. currently serves as Treasurer of this organization, and they have served each year on the organization committee for the annual TIPMAPS conference in San Marcos, Texas. They have had over 200 participants each year attending. The IPM team, also host the quarterly meeting for our regional TIPMAPS Chapter.

Describe the goals of the program being nominated; why was the program conducted? What condition does this activity address? (250 words or less):

The program was developed to create a safe, healthy environment for the students, faculty and staff of Spring Independent School District. They have made this decision because they felt it was in the best interest of students and staff. Our program had not had any parent concerns, unsafe incidents and we did not want any. David and C.G. made the decision to create the best IPM program in the state of Texas. We could also see budget concerns starting to materialize and felt it would be in the best interest of the program and for our students and staff. We made it a goal to reduce student and staff exposure to pesticides by using, best management practices, mechanical, and physical methods first. Low risk or "green" category pesticides are used only if needed. We use several methods to control the pest population. We have action threshold and service protocol we use for all pests before taking action. We inspect, identify and evaluate each situation and look to biological methods for prevention as well as other tactics and strategies. By addressing the safety and health of the students, faculty and staff we are helping the District's average daily attendance (ADA). Since 2006 our ADA has exceeded 95% and we are working to raise this as well as, saving the district money by using best IPM practices.

Describe the level of integration across pests, systems and/or disciplines that was involved. (250 words or less):

By using pest identification, action thresholds, inspecting/monitoring, multiple control tactics and team work we have taken our program to a higher level. They have worked closely with other departments as they built our program. Our Safety and Environmental Department has assisted the IPM effort by intervening in sanitation-related problems. They have worked with our Building and Planning Department to plan green-certified schools to minimize entry points for all pests and eliminate roosting areas for pigeons and other birds. Our Custodial Department now uses only green cleaning products. The Agriculture and Culinary Booster Club directors have now implemented better cleaning practices as a learning tool. In 2010 we adopted the work order system, SchoolDude. SchoolDude contains the PM (Preventative Maintenance) Direct and Maintenance Direct modules that relate directly to our program. Using these programs we post inspection calendars for each facility, and receive pest requests. SchoolDude allows us to track non-chemical interventions as well as uses of green category pesticides. It also helps us track pest problems. As a goal we intend to utilize the budget control section of the program. They use the PM Direct program calendar to schedule inspections of every facility monthly and of food areas twice monthly. By using exclusion methods during our scheduled inspections we have helped our district save 5% of our overall energy budget and expect this to increase.

Describe the team building process; how did the program being nominated get partners involved? Education and awareness are essential in an IPM program. (250 words or less):

They have significantly increased using education and involvement since 2006. We set up our own IPM committee in November 2009 to address the needs of the district. Our committee consists of the Executive Director of Human Resources, IPM Coordinator, Child Nutrition, Maintenance, Safety Director, Operations Director and Director of Planning and energy. They have met, and will continue to meet with, our 226 custodians annually, 50 maintenance staff annually, and our 418 child nutrition administrative staff annually.

Each year they meet with our two Athletic Directors and six athletic grounds keepers, and 14 agricultural educators. We meet quarterly with our five culinary arts staff. To date they have met with 20 Head and Associate Superintendents, 38 Principals and vice principals, 38 principal's secretaries, 24 nurses, and the Director of Career and Technical Education. They are currently working with the Associate Superintendent of Curriculum to discuss implementing educational material about IPM to the students. We have utilized power point presentations provided by Texas AgriLife Extension Agency and have developed their own power point presentations for each department. We use District in-service days to present their information. They set up meetings and go to Booster clubs, such as 4H, FFA, Band, and Athletics who work concession stands. They have encouraged our students to participate in a picture drawing contest of insects with one of our local vendors allowing the student to win \$100.00 Treasury Bond.

What outcome describes the greatest success of the program?:

We made the decision in 2006 to go 100% green. In March of 2011 obtained that goal. Since 2006 C.G. and David have worked diligently to educate our district about IPM. IPM has successfully been received by the Central Administrative staff, Principals and faculty staff is on board. We have successfully met with child nutrition, maintenance, custodial, culinary arts, agriculture, booster clubs, and the athletic department to educate them in IPM.

Provide evidence of change in knowledge, behavior or condition as a result of the program/individual. (250 words or less):

Our IPM program has increased the awareness of being proactive instead of reactive and the importance of having a "True IPM Program" that is based on science and continual education. As a result of this, our work order requests have reduced by 45%. Our IPM team as well as all administrative staff, teachers, employees, individual departments, and students now realize the impact that each individual can, and should, have on our environment by utilizing available technology and making proper decisions that reduce the risk from pests and chemicals, as well as, increase our knowledge of today's pest management strategies. We use no insecticide sprays in building interiors, only monitors, exclusion efforts, baits, and container type IGR's as a result of our environmental commitment. Our landscapes and facility exteriors are now inspected from top to bottom, as well as the surroundings on a regular scheduled basis. Our program now emphasizes exclusion and use of non-chemical tactics. Only GREEN Materials are used if there is an absolute need for an application to manage or eradicate a pest issue. We frequently correct issues before they result in a pest complaint. For example, we noticed that distributors of food for our cafeterias were propping the doors open during the entire delivery process, which would take as long as 45 minutes. We now have the managers to only open the door to allow one load at a time to be brought in. This has decreased our flying insect activity, rodent calls and other pest issues. We inspect vendor's trucks and facilities twice a year as per contract. The results from the two separate inspections revealed German roaches in potatoes and mice brought in on bread trays.

Who or what should receive the most credit for the success of this program? (250 words or less):

We are very firm believer of the term, "There is no I in TEAM." Therefore no single Individual should receive more credit. As for the, Operations Department "IPM Team" as a whole and everyone in our entire district should be recognized for their efforts put forth to make our IPM program a huge success.

If selected, suggested Citation for Award Certificate (40 words or less):

7th Annual International IPM Symposium Award
Presented to Spring Independent School District
For Their Exemplary Efforts and Commitment to Implement and Practice True IPM by Protecting the Public Health and Environment