

April 8, 2015

Dear School Pest Management Decision Maker,

The University of Tennessee Extension is encouraging all schools in Tennessee to adopt an integrated pest management (IPM) program in accordance with the National PMSP's (Pest Management Strategic Plan) call for all the nation's schools to be using IPM by 2015. IPM is a common sense approach to pest management that emphasizes the use of low risk but effective means to suppress pests. Children are more vulnerable to pesticides because their organ systems have not reached developmental maturity. Because they spend considerable time at school, they increase their risk of pesticide exposure if pesticides have been applied in a manner inconsistent with IPM. Pests pose risks from venomous bites, disease transmission, and allergic responses and may disrupt the learning environment. School IPM programs aim to reduce and balance risks from pests and pesticides to school occupants and the environment.

We would like to invite representatives (director of schools, custodial staff, facilities supervisor, grounds staff, kitchen staff, maintenance supervisors, and the pest management professional) from your school system to attend the following workshop:

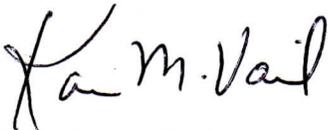
**Cocke County High School, 216 Hedrick Drive, Newport, Tennessee 37821  
on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.**

The purpose of this workshop will be to showcase the school as a model IPM system for surrounding counties and to view IPM in action. We will have a short lecture on IPM and demonstrate how to inspect the building and its perimeter. Please encourage your school system's pest management professional to attend.

Save the date to talk to the staff at the pilot school and learn about simple things that you can do to improve pest management. All employees have an effect on their school's IPM program. Even staff with no formal responsibility for pest control can determine the degree of success of an IPM program.

We look forward to seeing you on May 8, 2015. Please respond to Pat Barnwell ([pbarnwel@utk.edu](mailto:pbarnwel@utk.edu) or 865-974-2711) by May 7.

Sincerely,



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