

Lame, Marc L. 2005. *A Worm in the Teacher's Apple: Protecting America's School Children from Pests and Pesticides*. AuthorHouse. 1663 Liberty Drive, Suite 200, Bloomington, IN. 238 pp. Paperback. \$15.75. ISBN: 1-4208-3935-7.

"*A Worm in the Teacher's Apple: Protecting America's School Children from Pests and Pesticides*" is a comprehensive, easy to read four part guide written especially for parents, teachers, school staff members and school administrators. The first part of this guide "Problems" explains the common perceptions about pesticide use and handling, and educates the general public about realities involved with the business of pest control. A logical and seamless segue into part two "Solutions" includes simple diagrams that explain the costs and benefits of IPM (integrated pest management) and explains several pest management models. The author, Dr. Marc Lame, is quick to point

out that "IPM is the right thing to do" but he also backs up that statement with ways to determine the overall costs and benefits of School IPM. Part three entitled "Implementation" details several different school environments and portrays plans of action sure to fit almost any size school in America. Lame's novel idea that IPM not only stands for integrated pest management but also reflects the importance of "integrated people management," gets to the heart of IPM in any system. Advice flows about how to increase the awareness of everyone involved in protecting schools, including students. This community effort to make schools essentially pest and pesticide free is the backbone of the "Mon-



Fig. 1. Dr. Marc L. Lame, pioneer and national leader of school IPM.

roe Model,” developed in cooperation with the Monroe County Community Schools Corporation, Indiana (<http://www.mccsc.edu/%7Ejjochim/ipm.html>). Monroe County Indiana achieved a 92 percent reduction in pesticide use, enabling them to direct their cost savings to hire a district-wide coordinator to oversee pest management in the schools. As a result of this achievement, Monroe County received the Indiana Governor’s Award for Pollution Prevention. The Monroe County IPM Program has now evolved into the “Monroe School IPM Model.” By using this Model, the emphasis is placed on minimizing the use of broad spectrum chemicals, and on maximizing the use of sanitation, biological controls and selective methods of pesticide application. This model proves that increased communication and collaboration between pest management practitioners and school administrators, the custodial, maintenance, and cafeteria staffs, teachers and students can lead to a safer learning environment for school children of all ages and in all learning environments. It also enables staff, teachers and administrators to maintain a safer work environment. The simple idea of “just think pests” can make every member of a school community more aware of how their activities mitigate or exacerbate pest problems. Armed with the background information provided in the previous three parts, part four “Tools” provides the process and resources for successful implementation of School IPM. Additionally, the book has seven pages of references covering various aspects of School IPM. Sure to be viewed as a bonus is the logically produced appendix that provides a wealth of information, includ-

ing a condensed description of IPM, the Arizona IPM in Schools Coalition Pests Monitoring Protocol, the Monroe Model inspection checklist, a memorandum of understanding, and a model Pest Press news letter.

Dr. Marc Lame is a pioneer and accomplished leader in the field of School IPM whose enthusiasm for protecting our children is contagious. He not only commands respect as the national expert in the field but also works constantly in schools to implement the principles he has developed. He serves as a faculty member of Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs in Bloomington where he teaches “Environmental Management”, “Management Communication”, “Environmental Policy” and “Insects and the Environment.” Working closely with Dr. Faith Oi, Dr. Lame readily assists the Florida School IPM Program and *IPM Florida* to increase IPM practices in Florida schools (<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu>). This very effective team is implementing the Monroe School IPM Model Brevard County, the first in Florida to adopt this model and one of the largest school districts in the nation to embrace School IPM. His book, the first in the field, is full of all the tools anyone could need to become proactive in providing pest and pesticide free school environments through the use of IPM.

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