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The ISEC Home Pest Management program teaches four basic concepts: identify, sanitize, exclude and control. Audiences learn action steps to prevent potential pest problems in the home, generally without using pesticides. ISEC increases homeowner awareness of IPM principles and concepts and reduces exposure to pesticides utilizing alternative and least toxic methods and proper pesticide disposal.

A pilot program conducted with 258 clients in 5 counties during 2004, increased clientele knowledge 29% as measured by a pre and post test. A follow-up mailed survey, showed that 84% of respondents followed action steps and that 79% were using IPM methods.

A recent 2-hour training of 270 potential trainers, increased average test scores from 71 pre-training to 87 post-training with 67% receiving a score of 70 or better on the pretest and 90% on the post-test. Most potential trainers were County Extension Agents in Family and Consumer Sciences who will teach the curriculum as a part of their Extension education program.



ISEC's 4 steps:

Identify



Proper identification of the pest is essential to developing a good management plan.

Sanitize



Sanitation is the key to solving most household pest problems. It involves removing food, water and/or shelter.

Exclude



Keeping pests out of your home is the best way to manage them.

Control



Even if household pests elude your first line of defense, do not immediately reach for a can of pesticide to solve the problem. There are other alternatives that may be equally effective and always try least toxic approaches first.

Program Brochures



ID Cards



Brochures and ID cards were created to help identify pests and remind program participants of the action steps.

Brochure Information



Testing & Training

Training

Two types of training programs were developed for the ISEC Home Pest Management Program- one to train new trainers and a second to train clientele. The trainer program goes more in depth in various topics such as pest identification, reading a chemical label, hiring a pest management professional and action steps for each of the 10 pests covered by the program.

Testing

Testing consists of a pre and post test to measure knowledge gained during the training. A follow-up survey is mailed to participants several weeks after the training to determine which action steps are being used.



IPM Kit



The IPM kit contains common items that can be used to practice ISEC within the home. These kits can be used as a hands-on teaching tool or as door prizes to program participants.

TEXAS
IPM