



National Wildlife Control
Training Program

An evolution in wildlife damage management training
using IPM methodology

Teaching Life
Courseware for Living

Raj Smith



IPM Credentials

Why am I here talking about IPM and wildlife control?

Transformation through information

- Cornell Pest Management Guidelines 2003 (Collaborative editing)
- IPM from an Information Management (IT) Perspective
 - Collaborative – Extension – Public – Multi Media
- Research based information (Extension) versus public opinion
- Plants - Organic versus Agri-Chem business
- Wildlife - Lethal versus non-lethal
- *IPM as systems management and conflict resolution*





Time line

Raj Smith
Scott Hygnstrom
Paul Curtis
Stephen Vantassel

- Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage (PCWD 4th edition 1994)
- ICWDM 2004 (reboot from 1996 - IPM Funded)
- Pest Management Guidelines 2003 (Cornell-NYS IPM)
- Best Practices for Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators 2004
- eXtension Wildlife Damage Management CoP 2005 - 2013
- National Wildlife Control Training Program (NWCTP) 2010
- Master Gardener 2014 (IPM Funded)
- Private NWCTP 2015

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Human-Wildlife Conflict

Wildlife Damage Management – Vertebrate Pest Management – Nuisance Wildlife Control

- Damage to crops – Agriculture
- Damage to vehicles (cars, airplanes)
- Damage to physical structures (barns, houses, commercial buildings)
- Landscaping (plant, lawns, sanitation)
- Problems with safety and disease

Public Opinion
Economic costs
Humane and ethical treatment
Oversight and training





Best Practice


Best practices for nuisance wildlife control operators

Best practices
for nuisance wildlife control operators

- What's a "**best practice**"? It's an effective method for solving a nuisance wildlife problem that also minimizes risks to the environment and our health and well-being. This decision-making strategy balances concerns about safety; the humane treatment of wildlife; practicality; landowner rights; the protection of wildlife populations and habitats; and ethical, legal, financial, and aesthetic issues. Best Practices for Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators 2004
- Best Practice is an expression that means "think IPM"*

IPM friendly publication (Paul Curtis – Jill Shultz – Lynn Braband)

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IPM as Wildlife Systems Management

Problem solving, framing, perspective – IPM requires effort and information

- What's the problem? **Assess** the situation.
- What are possible solutions? **Choose** Management Options. What does it cost?
- Implement** the solution – Wildlife damage management and wildlife species information
- How long will it work? **Prevent** future problems. Prevention
- Evaluate** success. Measure its effectiveness. Repeat or redo

Habitat – Biology – Ecology – Control Methods – Cost – Safety - Efficacy

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Integrated Wildlife Damage Management

- Best practices are based on the best available **information**, which includes scientific knowledge and the field experience of wildlife biologists and nuisance wildlife control operators (NWCs). Best practices continue to be refined with time and experience.

PCWD is a bible of wildlife info

ICWDM is a clearing
house of Information

NWCTP is a training Program




Wildlife Species Information

Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage

- Research based reliable information
- Identification – image – description – sounds - tracks
- Biology – litters – diet – habitat
- Damage identification – plants - structures
- Economic and nuisance cost
- Damage prevention and control information
- Animal handling and disposition






Damage Prevention and Control Methods

- Non-lethal
 - Habitat management
 - Sanitation
 - Control food, shelter and resources
 - Repel or frighten
 - Exclusion
 - Trap and release
 - Fertility control

- Lethal
 - Toxicants
 - Kill traps
 - Shooting
 - Euthanasia

Local, state, and federal laws
Safety
Costs
Public perception



Animal Handling and disposition



Promoting (i) Wildlife Damage Management

IPM Vertebrate Pest Management

- Training and Education
 - Websites
 - Books
 - Extension
 - Social Media
 - Online courses



University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Cornell University

National Wildlife Control Training Program

Volume 1: Core Principles and Information

Authors: G. Kneib, J. Kneib, J. Kneib, J. Kneib

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Cornell University

National Wildlife Control Training Program

Volume 2: Supplemental Species Information

Authors: G. Kneib, J. Kneib, J. Kneib, J. Kneib






National Wildlife Control Training Program



- Professional Audience
- Training and certification
- Online training and certification program
 - Collaboration with states and professional organizations
- Core Manual – Basic Principles of Wildlife Damage Management
- Common species information – Biology and control information





Modules in the Training Program

1. Basic Principles	8. Toxicants
2. Physical Safety	9. Animal Handling
3. Wildlife Diseases	10. Euthanasia
4. Site Inspection	11. Legal and ethical
5. General Control Methods	12. Professionalism
6. Trapping	13. State information
7. Exclusion	14. Species information





Master Gardener Training Program

Northeast and Nebraska versions

- Non-professional audience
- IPM framework – funded by the Northeast IPM Center
- Greater emphasis on non-lethal controls
- Extension audience?
- Local species information



Infrastructure of the training program

What does it take to make the training program function?

- Collaboration between extension faculty, government and private agencies
- Learning Management System (Moodle) privately hosted
- Ecommerce store
- SharePoint team website
- Public Website and social media
- Printed books
- Ebooks





Putting (and keeping) it all together

Websites, team work sites, learning management systems, training web sites, ecommerce

- ICWDM – Moved to University of Wisconsin-Stephens Point
 - New web platform (Drupal). New navigation, still a clearing house of WDM
- PCWD – 5th edition coming out in the fall, nearly 1000 new pages of new WDM
- NWCTP – Privately managed website with Moodle LMS and ecommerce
 - New state versions coming this year
 - New manuals and species guides – ebooks – mobile app
 - New online species courses



Questions? Contact Information

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