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Press Release

Courtesy of Audrey Moore, US EPA Region 2 Regional Ag Policy Specialist:

THE NEPMA IPM REGISTRY Supporting Professional Integrated Pest Management

Press Release
For Immediate Release April 29, 2002

"Are Exterminators Extinct?"

The New England Pest Management Association announces the creation of the IPM Registry for pest control professionals and businesses throughout New England. IPM or integrated pest management is the use of two or more strategies to effectively manage pest problems. Included among the strategies are sanitation, structural modification, human behavioral changes, mechanical controls and, when necessary, pesticide applications.

Professional pest control technicians are licensed and certified to apply pesticides in the states where they operate. Integrated pest management requires skills beyond pesticide applications. These skills include client education, structural modification, non-chemical controls and the selection of specific, low impact pesticide formulations when needed.

NEPMA President Jack Drummey of Hudson Pest Exterminators said, "We wanted a system that responded to member demand and questions from the public; a system that raises the professional bar and meets the scrutiny of consumers. I think we have done that!"

The NEPMA IPM Registry trains, tests and recognizes practitioners and their businesses that subscribe to higher industry standards of performance. Members of the Registry agree to practice the principles of IPM and are audited for compliance. They are registered, listed on the NEPMA website, and wear IPM Registry patches to promote IPM and the Registry.

Committee chair Ben Buono of Buono Pest Control in Belmont, MA said, "We have been working for over a year to create a highly credible system that will challenge professionals and convince consumers that they can purchase IPM services with confidence."

Steven Keris, President of Precision Pest Control in Plymouth, MA, who served on the committee since its beginning, states, "The Registry will provide a way for the general public to find companies who have demonstrated a high degree of proficiency in dealing with many pest

situations."

Consumers can now contract and hire professional IPM Registered practitioners and their businesses with confidence that these individuals have been tested and demonstrate the skills needed to provide IPM services to the public. Currently, 61 IPM practitioners and 24 IPM business are listed on the Registry website at www.nepma.org.

Support for this project was provided by the National Foundation for IPM Education, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, UMass Extension and New England Pest Management Association.

For additional information, contact Craig Hollingsworth, Coordinator for the NEPMA IPM Registry Coordinator at (413) 545-055 or chollingsworth@umext.umass.edu.

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