

Re: Keesing contact info

Thu, Aug 25, 2016 1:09 pm

From Dave Cassel decassel@gmail.comhide details

To Jan Markarian jancmark@aol.com

Cc vhulchanski vhulchanski@fayettevilleny.gov

Jan,

I spoke with Shannon Duerr at the Cary Institute, who responded to a voicemail I left at the following number: (845) 677-7600 ex. 286. She informed me that the best way to contact the tick team is via email at: tickproject@caryinstitute.org. She was very kind and informative.

Furthermore, I expressed frustration with Felecia Keesing speaking so negatively about the Village of Fayetteville program without first contacting the Village to share her knowledge on the subject and she apologized and told me that they have been inundated with requests from "news outlets", are often misrepresented and that no bad intentions were intended.

Important points Shannon told me during our conversation:

-The Cary institute is involved in ecologically based Lyme disease research/prevention, which is a new concept.

-They have found that Lyme disease incidence is not relative to abundance of ticks, rather abundance of ticks carrying Lyme. I.e. You can have an area loaded with ticks and no Lyme, thus no Lyme risk, or conversely have relatively low tick density but a high occurrence of Lyme due to the ticks that are present carrying Lyme. It seems to me at Fayetteville has a lot of ticks and a lot of Lyme...

-High levels of plant and animal biodiversity help reduce Lyme disease. Items such as brush piles and animal species such as opossum and foxes help a lot. Unfortunately I'm not sure that brush piles and foxes running through the Village would go over well...

-Their current study utilizes two approaches:

1) TCS Bait box - a box with bait that applies Fipronil (ingredient used in frontline for dogs/cats) to small mammals (mice, squirrels, etc).

2) Net 52 fungal spray. This is applied to landscape twice a season (April/May, and July). Apparently it consists of naturally occurring fungal spores and targets ticks.

-Their study utilizes pesticides that are as non-toxic as possible and are readily available to the public. However, Fipronil is not good for birds, but it seems to be more of a dermal hazard and not so much of a danger if ingested.

-It seems that they chose not to use the permethrin "tick tubes" I've been looking into because they are "more toxic". Apparently permethrin is very toxic to cats - it seems possible that a cat could catch and ingest a mouse that has been exposed to permethrin and be harmed.

I expressed to Shannon that the Village would like to improve communications and would love to learn any insights they may be able to share moving forward and to please consider us for future studies.

I hope this is helpful. I plan on investigating these approaches as time allows and will present my findings and recommendations to the deer committee/Village. Please contact the Cary Institute for more information.

Thanks, Dave