

PENNSYLVANIA VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Graduate State College
October 20-22, 2025

Agenda

Monday, October 20, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Registration

1:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.

Welcome/Opening Remarks

Christian Boyer, PVCA President

Session 1

Moderator: Christian Boyer

1:10 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.

Rodenticides – Environmental Issues and Regulatory Responses

Dr. Jamie Kopco, Penn State Extension

1:40 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

Rodents - Biology and Control

Donald deMackiewicz, Penn State Extension

2:10 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.

Chronic Wasting Disease Update

Erika Coover, Pennsylvania Game Commission

2:40 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

AMCA Update: Member Agencies are Helping Lead the Way with Culicoides Management Projects

Dr. Daniel Markowski, AMCA Technical Director

2:55 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Break

Session 2

Moderator: Brooke Coder

3:20 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.

Role of USDA Wildlife Services and Public Engagement - Wildlife Damage Management, Wildlife Disease, and Emergency Response

Kyle Van Why, US Department of Agriculture

3:40 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.

Entomology update from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Mike Hutchinson, PA Department of Agriculture

3:55 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.

Gynandromorph *Ixodes scapularis*

Lydia Zimmerman, PA DEP

4:10 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Invasive plants, invasive ticks and tick-borne disease ecology in Southeastern PA Dr. Jocelyn Behm, Temple University
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Vendor Presentations
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn Christian Boyer, PVCA President
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Vendor Social- Atherton Room

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet Available
8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.	Introduction Christian Boyer, PVCA President

Session 3
Moderator: John Bitner

8:35 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	2025 Black Fly Program Update Steve Means, PA DEP
9:05 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.	2025 WNV Program Update Jen Stough, PA DEP
9:25 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	2025 Tick Program Update Christian Boyer, PA DEP
9:45 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Vector Management Lab Update Dr. Keith Price, PA DEP
10:05 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	AMCA Update Pricilla Matton, AMCA North Atlantic Director
10:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Break

Session 4
Moderator: Ray Delaney

10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	New Jersey Update Michael Hoban, NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination
11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	2025 Human Arbovirus Season Update for Pennsylvania Krystal Mason, PA Department of Health

11:20 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. **Department of Health Updates on Tickborne Diseases**
Leah Lind, PA Department of Health

11:35 a.m. – 11:55 p.m. **Evaluating Predictors of Lyme Disease in Pennsylvania**
Helen Farnam, PA Department of Health

12:05 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch and Photo Salon/Awards**

Session 5
Moderator: Tom Simmons

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Keeping Pesticides Out of Groundwater**
Brittany Clark, PA Department of Agriculture

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Ticks and tick-borne disease from the Lehigh Valley to Mexico**
Dr. Marten Edwards, Muhlenberg College

2:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. **Evaluation of Thermacell tick control tubes to reduce questing Ixodes scapularis nymphs on public game lands in Western Pennsylvania**
Emily Bache, University of Pittsburgh

2:20 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. **Farmer Perspectives on Tick Presence and Tick-Borne Diseases in Western Pennsylvania**
Bridget Kelley, University of Pittsburgh- Student Award Winner

2:50 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. **Break**

Session 6
Moderator: Christian Boyer

3:20 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. **Pesticide Complaints and Misuse Investigations**
Brittany Clark, PA Department of Agriculture

3:50 p.m. – 4:10 p.m. **Pesticide resistance monitoring in mosquitoes of the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic regions**
Lindsay Baxter, NEVBD

4:10 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Vectorborne Disease Surveillance in Philadelphia**
Emily Kehoe, Philadelphia Department of Public Health

4:30 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. **Insecticide resistance in ticks and mosquitoes, and their microbiomes- impact on vector control programs**
Dr. James Mutunga, Penn State Harrisburg

4:40 p.m. – 5:10 p.m. **Vendor Presentations**

5:10 p.m.

Adjourn

Christian Boyer, PVCA President

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet Available

8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.

Introduction

Christian Boyer, PVCA President

Session 7

Moderator: Ray Buckley

8:35 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

Grouse/WNV Update

Reina Tyl, Pennsylvania Game Commission

9:20 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

***Aedes aegypti* Invasion Dynamics: Lessons Learned from the Amazon**

Kara Fikrig, Penn State University

9:40 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.

The VECTOR Library: A Database for Vector-Borne Disease Educational Materials

Drew Lysaker, Penn State University

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break/Checkout

Session 8

Moderator: John Bitner

10:45 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Human Lyme Disease Vaccine Update

Dr. Tom Simmons, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Professor Emeritus

11:05 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

VectorED Network 2025: Surveillance, Training, and Evaluation Highlights

Dr. Erika Machtinger, Penn State University

11:20 a.m.- 11:35 a.m.

Fungal Fumble: Failure of *Metarhizium brunneum* F52 to Reduce Questing Blacklegged Ticks on Residential Properties

Valeria Lee, Penn State University- Student Award Winner

11:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Business Meeting/Door Prizes

Christian Boyer, PVCA President

12:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Christian Boyer, PVCA President