

Western Region School IPM Implementation and Assessment Work Group

Priority-Setting Activity

Prior to beginning the facilitator should:

- Have everyone in the room call out numbers 1 through 4 to determine group designations.
- Pass out envelopes with colored “dot” stickers to each person. Each envelope should have 3 dots each of 4 different colors. Each color corresponds to a different topic area.

Orient the Group (read these instructions and answer questions before beginning the activity):

“Now we come to one of our most important tasks today. The working group is charged with developing a regional list of school IPM needs and priorities. To facilitate this, we will break out into four groups to actively develop pest management priorities in different areas.”

1. **Four topics.** We have four large writing pads set up around the room. Each one of these stations is focused on a different school IPM topic: (1) Research needs; (2) education / outreach needs; (3) barriers to IPM implementation; and (4) pest issues.
2. **Brainstorming (20 minutes).** Each group will take a turn, for only 5 minutes, at each station, and will designate a group member to write down every idea they can come up with related to that topic. Don't worry about prioritizing or grouping ideas. Just write down everything you can think of.
3. After 5 minutes, the groups will rotate, until each group has had a turn addressing every topic.
4. **Streamlining (5 minutes).** Whichever group is the last one at each station has the task of reviewing the full list of needs for that topic. They should combine any redundant items and clarify any confusing language. This should take 5 minutes.
5. **Prioritizing (5 minutes).** Once all the needs are all listed and organized, we will ask each individual to vote for the needs they think are most important in each category/topic. Each person gets 3 votes for each topic. You will vote by applying the colored stickers you've been given to your top choices in each category. You can apply 1, 2, or all 3 colored stickers to any listed need, but you only get a total of 3 votes for each topic area. This should take 5 minutes.
6. **Summarizing (5 minutes).** Once we are done, we will tally-up the number of votes and rank the top priorities for each of the four topics. The facilitator will read off the top priorities for each topic to the group.
7. **Discussing.** The remaining time will be used for discussion.