WA School IPM Coalition Meeting

On May 5th, a meeting of the Washington School IPM Coalition was held in Bellevue. Bringing together representatives of various state agencies, school districts, and Washington State University, the meeting provided an opportunity for school districts to learn about Integrated Pest Management and showcased the resources available to help districts begin or improve their school IPM programs. Speakers included Carrie Foss, WSU Urban IPM Program, Nancy Larson and Ryan Vucinovich, Bellevue School District, Tim Stock, Oregon State University, and Dr. Dawn Gouge, University of Arizona. Among the topics of discussion were the nationally-recognized IPM STAR Certification program, advantages and logistics for beginning a school IPM program, and an introduction to the biology and control of rats and mice in school settings using IPM strategies. Among the attendees were representatives of the Washington State Departments of Health, Ecology, and Agriculture, WSU Urban IPM, pest management professionals, and representatives of 10 Washington school districts.