

**Entomological Society of America
North Central Branch**

**Entomology Games Committee 2021 Annual
Report**

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION (established April 2021):

Chair: Ellen Klinger (klinger.80@osu.edu)

Gamesmaster: Deane Jorgenson (deane.jorgenson@syngenta.com)

Committee members:

Wayne Ohnesorg (wohnesorg2@unl.edu)

Ric Bessin (ric.bessin@uky.edu)

Student member:

Lauren Fann (Lauren.Fann@uky.edu)

Additional assistance provided by:

Elizabeth Long

Robert Mitchell

OVERVIEW:

This year's offering is modeled after the ESA 2020 National Virtual Games format and is different than the traditional in person format.

Question sets were not solicited from each of the teams but were composed exclusively from the committee and persons providing additional assistance. This process was chosen as the virtual games format only requires 40 total questions and we felt as if this was the best process for this year.

COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES:

- Write, vet and organize games questions
- Solicit entries from teams
- Set up and organize virtual games
- Make decisions regarding changes and setups for the virtual games offerings
- Assist with running of the games as available

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:

Questions: The major task of the committee is to provide and vet the question bank with which to challenge our entered teams at the NCB meetings – this year (2021) five teams from five different universities entered our virtual games. Question sets this year were not solicited from

each of the teams but were composed exclusively from the committee and persons providing additional assistance (see above). This process was chosen as the virtual games format only requires 40 total questions and we felt as if this was the best process for this year. Questions were categorized and distributed as evenly as possible according to the following sections and subject areas:

PBT (Physiology, Biochemistry & Toxicology)
PIE (Plant-Insect Ecosystems)
MUVE (Medical, Urban & Veterinary Entomology)
SysEB (Systematics, Evolution & Biodiversity)

Subject areas: Apiculture, Biological Control, Ecology, Economic Entomology, Medical and Veterinary Entomology, Physiology and Biochemistry, Taxonomy, and Toxicology.

Due to the virtual format, there is no separate toss-up and bonus question format. Instead, we opted to categorize the questions as “easy”, “medium” and “hard” and distributing the various levels throughout the rounds. Questions are organized on a spreadsheet, along with supporting material such as photos (original or freely useable content) and references.

Teams: Using past contacts and committee knowledge, previous teams were first contacted on April 23, 2021. Subsequent reminders and new contacts were invited through 6/8/21 at which time a branch wide specific e-mail was sent regarding invites to the games. The final team entry date was set for 6/14/21 (virtual games are more flexible than in person games). As of this report, there are five teams registered for the games. All teams were from single universities, there was no apparent interest on creation of a team from multiple universities.

Games logistics: The virtual format is supported on the Zoom platform along with WikiQuiz program for question delivery. The committee discussed the workings of this format along with the overall organization of the program. In general, teams will go into private break out rooms to answer questions (5 min) during which the general audience will be entertained with specific content. Upon returning to the main room, the Gamesmaster will present both the questions and correct answers for the audience and team enjoyment, the questions and answers will be written on a PowerPoint slide. Committee members, as available will serve as viewers in breakout rooms to facilitate teams if there is an issue, as well as serving functions related to the virtual offering format (moderating chats, etc.).

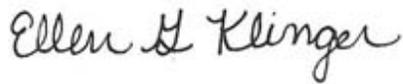
SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Team contact: The method in which we seek out and invite teams can be improved. In many cases, the chair (myself) was soliciting teams via advisors of past teams or from contacts gathered from committee knowledge. It would be best to maintain a contact list for each available university and update it each year.

Two branch wide emails were sent inviting teams to the meeting- the first was embedded in other branch information, the second was specific only to the games. It would be suggested to have a specific email for the games early in the solicitation period.

Games: As the games have not happened yet, it is unknown whether this format will prove difficult. However, after input from other branches that have done the same format, we anticipate it to be successful. The branch may want to discuss at a future point some additional changes to the format of the games that may increase inclusivity, as other branches are beginning to discuss. Examples of changes being considered by other branches include later registration times with teams able to register at the in-person meeting, combined teams from multiple universities, and a more casual format for non-final rounds (pub trivia style).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen H. Klinger".

Ellen Klinger, PhD (she/her/hers)
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