

A UNIFYING FRAMEWORK FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL

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Probably one of the most startling discoveries we all make once we have been in mosquito control for a while is the tremendous breadth of the field. One moment we need to be an engineer, the next minute an administrator, public relations man, or entomologist. It makes for interesting work, but it does create at least one problem: we must depend upon a diversity of disciplines to provide us with guidelines for our activities. The pitfall is that a discipline, be it engineering, biology, chemistry, or management science, has facts, theories, approaches and languages that are specifically applicable to its own particular field. It can be very frustrating to attempt to develop a cohesive mosquito control program while borrowing from these specialized disciplines.

The "systems" approach appears to have some promise in overcoming the above problems. Frank Stead introduced the subject to mosquito control in 1966 at one of our California Mosquito Control Association Conferences. It offers hope of providing a common perspective, and an interdisciplinary language, with which we can approach our mosquito control activities. A selected bibliography follows which I hope may be of some value to those wishing to further pursue the subject:

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