



Pennsylvania

PESTICIDE HIGHLIGHTS

For Private Pesticide Applicators

December 2002

WPS Down on the Farm Status Report

During the past year, inspectors from the PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) performed numerous Worker Protection Standard (WPS) inspections. To be exact, 86 checklist inspections and 15 complete inspections were done. Most of these inspections found no serious deficiencies or at most, some small problems. About one-third of the inspections uncovered problems that resulted in some sort of enforcement action, either a Request for Compliance Letter or a Certified Notice of Warning in the worst cases. All enforcement actions for the past year have been completed and sent to the affected operations.

The most common deficiencies noted by PDA inspectors were: incomplete or no information at the "central site," little or no worker/handler training, incomplete or no "decontamination sites" (or sites outside 1/4 mile from the treated area), incomplete application notification, PPE use or storage violations, and several other smaller problems with monitoring handlers and heat stress. Many of the deficiencies were corrected on the spot

with assistance from the inspector. Training problems seem to be the most bothersome, since most growers do not see the need for "extra" training.

The number of WPS inspections will increase this coming year in response to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and some advocacy groups to maintain a stronger inspector presence in the grower community. Spot checks will be done at an increasing number of locations throughout the Commonwealth. Owner/operators, handlers, and workers will be interviewed to determine compliance levels. Enforcement actions will be taken when non-compliance with the WPS is determined.

Please take a few minutes in the near future to determine whether or not your farm or business is in compliance with this important standard. If you need assistance with this effort, please call the PDA Regional Office in your area. Here's hoping that 2003 can be a year of safety, compliance, and prosperity for all.

Written by: Phil Pitzer, PA Department of Agriculture

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New National Hotline for U.S. Poison Centers

Americans can now use a single toll-free telephone number to reach a poison center anywhere in the nation. The national hotline, **1-800-222-1222**, is a coordination of the country's 65 separately run poison centers, which previously had over 130 different telephone numbers. Callers will be automatically connected to the closest poison center.

Centers field calls on about 2.2 million suspected poisonings per year, mostly involving young children. About 75% of all poisonings can be safely handled at home with the help of a poison center aide, but 700 to 800 calls per year end in fatalities, according to Dr. Alan D. Woolf, the president of the American Association



of Poison Control Centers. One-half of all calls to poison centers involve preschool-age children, although calls involving adults or elderly persons tend to be more

serious. A print and radio based education campaign will urge children to avoid household poisons and urge parents to post poison numbers near their phones.

Household cleaners and chemicals make up the bulk of poisonous substances in homes, although perfumes, medications, and spider

and animal bites can also lead to poisoning.

Adapted from: "New Central Hotline for U.S. Poison Control Centers," by Todd Zwillich (Reuters Health).

Why You Should Participate in Pesticide Use Surveys

With the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), the need for actual, reliable pesticide use data is greater than ever. The FQPA requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to complete a review of tolerance levels for re-registration of all pesticides. As a result, significant decisions regarding label uses of products have been made. For example many uses (such as all homeowner uses and some crop uses) of chlorpyrifos, known to applicators under the trade names Dursban and Lorsban, were eliminated from the label. In addition, many uses that remained were reclassified from general use to restricted use status.

As part of the review, the EPA looks at use patterns of the chemical. In the absence of actual use data, the EPA must use a worst case assumption in their calculations. This means that it must be assumed that the product is used the maximum times at the maximum rate allowed by the label. In the case of food crop uses it is also assumed that the product is used up to the last allowable date prior to harvest. Therefore, it is more critical than ever that, when asked, growers provide reliable use data so that this

information can be made available to the EPA for future decision making.

In order to provide this important data, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and The Pennsylvania State University Pest Management Information Center are cooperating to collect this valuable data for cabbage and cantaloupe pesticide use. In addition to pesticide use data, this survey also gives growers a chance to tell how they are using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, including the use of agricultural chemicals when necessary, in a responsible way to produce a safe and abundant food supply.

Throughout the fall, enumerators from NASS will be contacting growers. A typical survey takes about an hour. All data remains confidential, and all individual data is summarized to set state and national estimates. Although participation is voluntary, this information is critical to provide EPA with reliable, objective data on these crops. The availability of this data will help ensure that necessary products remain on the market to maintain a safe and abundant food supply.

Study Documents Degree of Pesticide Exposure in Farm Families

A new study from University of Minnesota and Emory University shows spouses and children who live on farms that use certain pesticides: glyphosate, 2,4-D, and chlorpyrifos (Lorsban/Dursban) do not show an appreciable level of increased exposure to the chemicals.

The biomonitoring study, released in November 2002, is the most comprehensive assessment to date of pesticide exposure for farm spouses and children. Scientists tracked 95 farm families in Minnesota and South Carolina from one day before to four days after a pesticide application on their farms. The family members gave urine samples 24 hours a day during this time period. All pesticides were applied to fields within 1 mile of the families' residences.

By determining the pesticide concentration in urine in the farm families, the scientists were able to estimate their internal exposure. Much of the previous research has depended on questionnaire-type surveys. But through testing urine they are better able to measure every way a pesticide could have gotten into the person.

Biomonitoring means measuring and estimating a dose to an organ or tissue within the body from the urine sample, said Jack Mandel, professor of epidemiology at Emory, the chief investigator for the study. "Any chemical absorbed through the skin or inhaled and absorbed through the lung or ingested and absorbed through the digestive tract will eventually be excreted—or a marker of that pesticide will be excreted. With that information, we do have some estimate of what's getting into the body and not just what's on the clothes or outside of the body," he said.

Children and spouses typically had pesticide exposure levels comparable to exposure levels measured in people who do not live on farms. The finding suggests that in the future, the studies that are conducted to look at the health of farmers need to go a lot further in doing the exposure assessment, said Mandel.

"It's no longer appropriate to assume that simply if you are present on a farm during application that you are exposed to high levels of pesticide. Clearly that's one message. I think it will have an effect on how research in this field is conducted in the future, and how we in hindsight might go back and interpret some of the research of the past," he said.

The analysis showed that 95 percent of the children and spouses in the study had very low or no detectable increase in urine pesticide concentration. Increases of more than 10 parts per billion (ppb) were generally linked to an event, such as children being in the immediate application area or teens helping apply the chemicals.

The study also measured the amount of exposure for the farmers doing the applications. Results varied by the chemical being applied and by the handling and application techniques used. Glyphosate was detected in 48 percent of the farmers, at 2 ppb on average. 2,4-D and chlorpyrifos were detected in all of the farmers at an average of 64 ppb and 19 ppb respectively.

The most appreciable increases were connected with direct skin contact from spills or equipment repairs. "A good number of the farmers were using pesticide resistant gloves a good deal of the time," says Mandel. "Sometimes they were not using them. There was a wide range." Bruce Alexander, professor of environmental and occupational health at the University of Minnesota, said it is safe to add that when farmers followed the practices and directions on the label, the exposure was relatively low.

"In those instances where they were elevated, we observed some activity where there was a breakdown in the process and we could at least attribute the likelihood that the exposure occurred through that," he said.

Adapted from: *Mike Holmberg & Cherly Rainford of Successful Farming as found on @griculture Online.*

Ag Cabs Certified to Meet ASAE S525 Should Not Be Used in Lieu of PPE

American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) S525 is a Standard that provides definitions, performance criteria, and test procedures for cabs (enclosures) used on agricultural tractors and self-propelled machines to replace or supplement specific personal protective equipment (PPE) required when the machines operate in an environment where agricultural pesticides are present.

S525 was established as a manufacturer's engineering control. Its intent was to offer agricultural equipment operators with the best protection available in an environment where a pesticide is present. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) personnel officially endorsed this standard in May of 1998, which then permitted operators of agricultural equipment certified to S525 to work in them without PPE.

At the time of the initial passage of S525, the Environments Within Ag Vehicle Enclosures Standards Committee, collected and evaluated available data. Individuals from various fields of expertise were involved to determine specific criteria to be used in the standard.

These included representatives of equipment manufacturers, filter manufacturers, and government and university specialists. The intent was to expose the standard to the scrutiny of a variety of experts.

Subsequent to the adoption of S525, additional

information has revealed new areas to be addressed. At this time, it is recommended that cabs certified to meet S525 NOT be used in lieu of PPE, but only as a supplement to PPE. Pesticide applicators are advised to follow all instructions on pesticide labels, including the use of PPE.

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This advisory was dated May 22, 2002, and sent to agricultural media, State Extension services, applicators associations, State Agriculture Departments, and customers of application equipment. It now looks as if those great new cabs on the new tractors will not take the place of proper PPE while performing spraying operations and that applicators will have to wear their PPE inside the cabs to be in compliance with WPS. For more information, contact Phil Pitzer, PA Department of Agriculture, at ppitzer@state.pa.us or 717-772-5206.

Proposed Pesticide Regulation Changes

The Department of Agriculture (PDA) is proposing changes to the Pesticide Regulations in Title 7 Chapter 128. These changes will clarify issues in existing regulations and respond to various changes in the pesticide program. The changes proposed by PDA that effect

certified private applicators include setting a minimum age of 16, provide for penalties for falsification of training and eliminating "formulation" from the record keeping requirements. Written comments on the proposed changes can be sent to the Department.

CHEMSWEEP 2003

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) announces the counties chosen for the 2003 CHEMSWEEP. This program is designed to provide agribusinesses and commercial enterprises as well as citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a means to properly dispose of canceled, suspended, or unwanted pesticide products.

The counties identified for collections in late Summer or early Autumn of 2003 are:

Adams Bedford Centre Chester
Crawford Erie Indiana Juniata
Lackawanna Lancaster Mercer Monroe
Perry Snyder Union Westmoreland

Licensed pesticide applicators in agribusinesses and commercial enterprises from the designated counties are eligible to participate by completing the CHEMSWEEP application mailed to them in November. Applications are also available from Penn State County Extension Offices and PDA Regional Offices.

Homeowners can utilize CHEMSWEEP by

participating in the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Household Hazardous Waste collection sites in counties where PDA and the contracted waste pesticide hauler is partnered with DEP.

Before CHEMSWEEP, which began as a pilot project in six counties in 1992, there was no cost effective way for citizens to properly dispose of canceled, suspended, or unwanted pesticides. Since storage of these products was the only safe and legal option prior to disposal, growers and individuals have stored these waste pesticides, often for many years.

An independent contractor hired by the PDA, collects, handles, and transports all waste pesticides out of state, primarily for incineration at EPA approved facilities. To date, 1,208,691 pounds of unwanted pesticides have been collected at no cost to the taxpayer. The collection program is funded through annual pesticide registration fees paid by pesticide manufactures. There is no cost to participating agribusinesses, commercial enterprises, or individuals for up to 2,000 pounds of pesticides.

Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program

Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling (PPCR) is a free program sponsored by the PA Department of Agriculture (PDA). The goal is to reduce the number of plastic pesticide containers being incinerated or disposed of in landfills. The program is open to all categories of licensed pesticide applicators, custom application businesses, and other generators of waste plastic pesticide containers.

The PPCR program continues to excel having recycled 81,000 pounds of containers so far in 2002. A truck-mounted granulator has greatly improved the efficiency of the program, and PPCR has recycled over 400,000 pounds of plastic pesticide containers since it began in 1994.

PDA has worked to make the PPCR program very accessible to the pesticide applicators of Pennsylvania. Each year new recycling locations are added, making PPCR available to more applicators than ever before.

The table below shows the list of PPCR recycling

locations as of October 2002. Please bring your clean, triple-rinsed, #2 HDPE plastic pesticide containers to the nearest recycling location during normal business hours. These cooperating businesses have been provided with storage units to collect your clean pesticide containers. When the storage units are full, PDA will granulate the pesticide containers on site, reducing them into chips in preparation for remanufacture. If PPCR is not currently available in your area, contact your local chemical supplier and encourage them to get involved.

Your participation in the recycling program is needed. Be a good steward of *your* environment by cleaning and recycling your plastic pesticide containers.

For more information or to obtain the current list of collection locations, contact Don Gilbert at (717) 705-5858 or dgilbert@state.pa.us, or visit the web site at <http://www.pested.psu.edu/pdaprofr.html>.

Cooperating Businesses in the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program

Please bring pressure-rinsed or triple-rinsed plastic pesticide containers during posted business hours.

City	Business	Phone #
Almedia	Ag Resources, Inc.	800-700-0530
Arendtsville	Helena Chemical	717-677-4599
Bedford	Agway (call first)	814-623-9061
Belleville	Ag Star Agronomy	800-379-3341
Belleville	Union Mill Chemgro	717-935-2185
Bethlehem	Lesco, Inc.	610-866-6665
Blairsville	Agway, Inc.	724-459-7830
Brogue	Andgrow Fertilizer	717-927-6975
Carlisle	Andgrow Fertilizer	717-249-4988
Coburn	Martin's Feed & Fertilizer	814-349-8787
Cochranville	Milford Fertilizer	610-869-8006
Columbia		
Crossroads	Judson's Agway Inc.	570-297-2153
Coplay	Reading Bone Agway	610-799-3115
	Allegheny Lawn & Golf Products	412-262-8091
Coraopolis		
Curryville	Agway Farm Supply	814-793-3664
East Berlin	Andgrow Fertilizer	717-259-9573
E. Petersburg	Mel Weaver & Sons	717-898-9050
Eighty Four	Agway Crops Center	724-222-4303
	PACMA/Upper Dauphin Grain	717-362-8440
Elizabethville		
Ephrata	Henry B. Hoover Agway	717-733-6593
Erie	Lesco, Inc	814-455-7850
Gettysburg	Ag Com, Inc.	717-334-6224
Gettysburg	Ag.&Natural Resource Ctr.	888-337-9827
Greencastle	Chester Horst	717-597-3994
Harrisburg	Lesco, Inc.	717-657-9034
Harrisburg	PA Dept. of Agriculture	717-705-5858
Jefferson	Codorus Fertilizer	717-229-2311
Jersey Shore	Eck's Agway	570-398-2770
Johnsonville	Reading Bone Agway	610-588-1095
Kinzers	Mr. Gideon King	N/A
Kreamer	Kreamer's Feed Store	570-374-8148
Lancaster	Lesco, Inc.	717-291-4434
Leesport	Reading Bone Agway	610-926-3717
Leola	Daniel's Farm Store	717-656-6982

City	Business	Phone #
Malvern	Fisher & Son	610-644-3300
Marietta	Snyder's Crop Service	717-426-4830
Mechanicsburg	Lesco, Inc.	717-691-9570
Mercersburg	Agronomy, Inc.	717-328-3145
Mifflin	Ag Star Agronomy	717-436-7501
Mifflinburg	Farmer's Exchange	814-671-1884
Mill Hall	Webb's Super-Gro	570-726-4525
Millerstown	N.O. Bonsall & Son	717-589-3146
Millardsville	Reading Bone Agway	717-933-4343
Montrose	Andre & Son	570-278-1131
Montrose	Palmatier Enterprises	570-278-3350
Moosic	Lesco, Inc.	800-650-1936
New Wilmington	Ag Central	724-946-3551
Myerstown	James Patches	717-949-3860
New Holland	Martin's Ag Service	717-354-4996
New Holland	Raymond Nolt	717-354-0198
Norristown	Lesco, Inc.	610-631-5333
Oxford	Cochranville Ag Service	610-869-9627
Pleasant Gap	Agway Crop Center	814-359-2725
Quarryville	Little Britain Agri Supply	717-529-2196
Reading	Moyer & Son	610-375-7272
Reedsville	Peach Run Ag Service	717-667-6658
Sandy Lake	Lakeview Fertilizer	724-376-3615
Seven Valleys	Andgrow Fertilizer	800-421-5682
Shippenville	J.M. Truck & Trailer	814-226-6066
Shippensburg	Cumberland Valley Coop	717-532-2197
Somerset	Walker's Farm Service	814-445-5177
Thompsontown	Agronomy Center	717-535-5151
Towanda	Agway Farm Supply	570-265-8141
Turbotville	Ag Resources, Inc.	570-649-5161
Tyrone	Tyrone Milling	814-684-3400
Warminster	Lesco, Inc.	215-957-4747
Warriors Mark	Helena Chemical	814-632-5177
Washingtonville	Crop Production Services	570-437-3121
Waterford	Troyer Farms	814-671-1884
Williamsburg	Agway Mill Hill	814-832-3458
Winfield	Ag Resources Crop Center	570-524-5102

Pesticide Enforcement Actions from October 2001 to September 2002

From October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002, 38 Notice of Warning letters were issued for violations of the PA Pesticide Control Act, as Amended. Warning letters are official enforcement actions and are pursued for minor violations or when insufficient evidence is obtained to support a penalty.

Also during this time period, 19 Civil Penalties were assessed for violations to the PA Pesticide Control Act, as Amended. The following table provides the number of Warnings and Civil Penalties along with a brief description of the violation and the dollar amount for each Civil Penalty .

Number and Type of Enforcement Action	Private Applicators Issued for:
1 Notice of Warning	Causing unwanted residues on another's property
1 Civil Penalty	Causing unwanted residues on another's property (\$200)
2 Notices of Warning	Failing to maintain required use records
3 Notices of Warning	Purchasing a restricted use fumigant product without being certified in the proper fumigation category
1 Civil Penalty	Using a herbicide not labeled for use in a nursery (\$100)
6 Notices of Warning	Violating the Worker Protection Standard
	Dealers Issued for:
5 Notices of Warning	Distributing a restricted use pesticide (RUP) to a non-permitted applicator
2 Civil Penalties	Distributing RUP to non-permitted applicators (\$1,000 and \$600)
	Commercial Businesses (CB) Issued for:
1 Notice of Warning	Ag CB—Causing unwanted residues on another's property
1 Notice of Warning	Ag CB—Failing to maintain all required use records
1 Civil Penalty	Ag CB—Using a herbicide not labeled for use in a nursery (\$100)
10 Notices of Warning	CB—Failing to maintain all required use records
2 Notices of Warning	CB—Failing to pre-notify a pesticide hypersensitive individual
1 Civil Penalty	Right-of-Way CB—Allowing a non-certified crew to apply pesticides (\$400)
1 Civil Penalty	Right-of-Way CB—Allowing a non-certified crew to apply pesticides without a commercial applicator supervisor and using unlabeled service containers (\$800)
1 Civil Penalty	Right-of-Way CB—Failing to pre-notify a pesticide hypersensitive individual (\$1,600)
	Various Companies Issued for:
1 Notice of Warning	Lawn Care—Allowing a non-certified applicator to apply pesticides
1 Civil Penalty	Lawn Care—Entering false certification numbers on application reports (\$1,000)
2 Civil Penalties	Lawn Care—Failing to pre-notify pesticide hypersensitive individuals (\$800 total)
1 Civil Penalty	Lawn Care—Treating the incorrect property (\$200)
1 Civil Penalty	Pest Control—Operating without a business license and a certified applicator (\$800)
1 Civil Penalty	Pest Control—Using an unapproved pesticide in a day-care center (\$1,800)
	Miscellaneous Issued for:
2 Civil Penalties	Applicators—Purchasing RUP with expired permits (\$200 total)
1 Notice of Warning	Landlord—Causing unwanted residues on another's property
1 Notice of Warning	Landlord—Treating an apartment building with four units
1 Notice of Warning	Person—Purchasing a RUP with an expired private applicator permit
1 Civil Penalty	Retail Store—Improperly disposing of pesticides (\$2,000)
2 Notices of Warning	Retail Store—Failing to clean up product spills
1 Notice of Warning	School District—Allowing a non-certified employee to apply herbicide on school grounds
1 Civil Penalty	School District—Failing to pre-notify a pesticide hypersensitive individual (\$400)
1 Civil Penalty	Township—Operating without a business license and certified applicator (\$400)

National Pesticide Information Center

Last year, the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) changed its name to the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC). Their phone number

remains the same 1-800-858-7378 but the web site URL is now <http://www.npic.orst.edu/>. They continue to be a great source of pesticide information.

Pesticide Education Program Staff Updates

In the past year, the Pesticide Education Program has had some staff updates and a staff award that we would like to share with you. We have a new director, **Dr. John Ayers**. We announced in last year's newsletter that Dr. Win Hock would retire in September 2001. Dr. John Ayers, who is a Penn State Professor of Plant Pathology, took over as director in October 2001. Dr. Ayers will oversee the development of pesticide certification examinations and training materials. He will provide oversight to the College's urban pesticide initiative that seeks to educate consumers and youth in regard to pesticide safety and alternatives to pesticides. Dr. Ayers will also continue his role as the Director of the Northeastern Pest Management Center and Grants Manager for the Northeastern Region Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program.

Dr. Kerry Richards was recently honored as a recipient of the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences' first Trailblazer Award. Kerry's incredible vision and creativity made her a natural selection for this award. Kerry has worked non-stop on educating swimming pool applicators; developing fun ways for kids to learn about pesticide alternatives and, if pesticides are needed,

how to use them safely and properly; and developing and giving countless recertification presentations around the state while earning her Ph.D. We are pleased the College recognized her outstanding work over the years.

Bill Hoffman, who was the Pest Management Information Center Manager, accepted a position with the USDA in January 2002. Due to budget uncertainties, we were not able to fill his position until August 2002. Dr. Kerry Richards will now head up this position.

We hired **Eric Lorenz** to fill Kerry's Pesticide Education Coordinator vacant position. Eric just started this November although he has worked in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences for over 20 years. Eric has an animal production and agronomic economics educational background. We are looking forward to working with Eric.

The last staff update we would like to announce is the addition of **Jimi Gingerich**. He is working part-time for us as a web designer and computer consultant. He has worked magic with our web site. If you haven't been to our web site in a while, check Jimi's new design and all the new things we have added at: <http://www.pested.psu.edu>.

Homeland Security and Terrorism Submission

The Pennsylvania State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation has established an e-mail address and a toll free telephone number to allow members of the public to contact the State Police Intelligence Section with information relative to Pennsylvania's Homeland Security.

Report Homeland Security or Terrorism Tips:

Web: <http://www.psp.state.pa.us/>

E-mail: sp-intelligence@state.pa.us

Phone: 1-888-292-1919



Photograph taken from the PA State Police Web Site.

The public is encouraged to report suspicious individuals or activity that may be directly or indirectly associated with terrorist or terroristic activity. All information received will be reviewed and handled accordingly. Individuals reporting information will not necessarily be re-contacted in all cases. In emergency situations, citizens should phone local law enforcement rather than use the terrorism tip line.

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