



Pennsylvania

PESTICIDE HIGHLIGHTS

For Public/Commercial Pesticide Applicators

June 1998

Dave Scott Named Outstanding Inspector of the Year

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region III annual Inspectors' Workshop was held in Ocean City, MD from October 28-31, 1997. One of the highlights of the Workshop was the presentation of the "Outstanding Inspector of the Year Award." The 1997 recipient of the Award was David M. Scott of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Dave, a PDA Region VI inspector, recently initiated a pilot project coinciding with the Department's CHEMSWEEP Program. CHEMSWEEP was created to assist farm managers in disposing of unwanted pesticide

products. Dave wanted to expand this very popular program to include homeowners. Because of his efforts, residents of Cumberland County, PA, had an opportunity to dispose of their unwanted pesticide products legally and responsibly.

We congratulate Dave on winning this award and wish him continued success in the future.

The information in this article was taken from a February 1998 article "Another Successful Inspectors' Workshop" in *FIFRAgram*, a publication of EPA Region III.

In This Issue

Dave Scott: Outstanding Inspector.....	1	CHEMSWEEP Update	5
Pesticide Education Program Web Site.....	1	Integrated Pest Mgmt. in PA Schools.....	6
Finding Recertification Meeting Info.	2	Certification Examination Updates	7
Pesticide-Related Web Sites	2	Registered Technician Information.....	7
Insurance Coverage for Businesses.....	3	Termiticide Applications	8
Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Prog.....	4	Pesticide Enforcement Actions.....	8

The Pesticide Education Program is on the Web

The Pesticide Education Program at Penn State University has been on the World Wide Web (WWW) since August 1997. This article will briefly describe the 14 pages we currently have on our home page at

<http://www.pested.psu.edu/>.

The following four pages contain basic information.

Monthly Feature contains a short article about a current pesticide-related topic or issue. **Program Information** contains the mission and goals of our program and how we are going to meet those goals. **Office Staff** lists the six people who work in our office and their e-mail addresses as well as the program's mailing address, telephone and FAX number, and e-mail address. **Related Links** lists various pesticide- and agriculture-related web sites.

The next three pages are probably the most useful.

Examination Information is an informative page with several links. The "Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator Certification" brochure describes the process of becoming a certified pesticide applicator and how to remain certified. This page also has ordering information for training

packets, which help you prepare for the various exams. Finally, the pesticide applicator certification exam schedule for the year is provided. The exam schedules are listed by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture regions and include the exam date, time, address, and a contact telephone number. The schedule can be printed by region and includes special instructions for taking the exam, such as what to take to the exam site, fees, etc.

The **Recertification Meetings** page provides information on the three methods that recertification update meeting information can be accessed. See the next article, "Where to Find Recertification Meeting Information" for details about the FAXBACK System and the toll-free Phone System. The recertification meeting finder on our web site allows you to find meetings by selecting the category and PDA region from a list. After clicking on the search button, the resulting page lists all the meetings for that particular category and region. This list can be printed, although ALL the meetings for the

(See **Web Site** on page 3)

Where to Find Recertification Meeting Information

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) is pleased to announce a statewide service to aid certified applicators in locating open meetings approved for pesticide recertification credits. These services are provided by the PDA in cooperation with the Penn State University Offices of Pesticide Education and Telecommunications.

FAXBACK System: 814-865-1636

This service will provide you with a printed listing of all the open Pesticide Update Meetings, that have been approved by the PDA, for the cost of the phone call. The FAXBACK system received great reviews during the pilot project for ease of access and usability of the information.

To use the FAXBACK system, use the phone on the fax to dial 814-865-1636. You will be welcomed to the PSU FAX-on-Demand System, then PRESS "1" to select Pesticide Information. The voice prompt will then ask you to select the PDA region you are interested in "1-7" or "8" for out-of-state meetings and correspondence courses. After entering your choice, the voice prompt will then tell you to press the start button on your fax machine. The fax will be on its way to you.

Phone System: 1-800-Penn-IPM (736-6476)

This service is available free of charge but is only available from October 1 through March 31. From April

through September the Phone System provides IPM information. You must call from a touch tone phone or be able to switch to touch tone from pulse dialing before you connect to the system. Listen for the voice prompt and select "1" for Pesticide Information. The next voice prompt will ask you to select the PDA region number "1-7" that you would like information for. The voice prompt will then ask you to select the category you are interested in, e.g., 00=Core and categories 01-25. Check your license for the categories you need.

A listing of all the meetings scheduled for that category will be read in alphabetical order by county and date. The reading will include county, date, number of credits offered, and a contact phone number. You may press "#" at any time to change the category or region. Have a pencil and paper or a tape recorder to note meetings that interest you, or simply use the FAXBACK system.

Internet Web Site

The Pesticide Education Program at Penn State has a web site on the Internet at <http://www.pested.psu.edu/>. Under the Recertification Meeting Page, one can find information about all approved core and category recertification meetings using the Recertification Meeting Finder. For more details, see the previous article, "The Pesticide Education Program is on the Web."

Pesticide-Related Web Sites

<http://ace.orst.edu/info/nptn/>

NPTN—National Pesticide Telecommunications Network

NPTN is a toll-free information service sponsored cooperatively by the Oregon State University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. NPTN provides objective, science-based information about a variety of pesticide-related subjects including pesticide products, pesticide poisonings and emergencies, toxicology, and environmental chemistry.

NPTN is open to questions from the public and professionals. It is staffed by highly qualified and trained pesticide specialists who have the toxicology and environmental chemistry training needed to provide knowledgeable answers to questions about pesticides. If callers have pesticide emergencies, NPTN can connect them directly with the Oregon Poison Control Center or the National Animal Poison Control Center. NPTN can also direct callers for pesticide incident investigations, safety practices, clean up and disposal, and laboratory analysis.

NPTN can be reached from 9:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. Eastern Time, seven days a week, excluding holidays. Telephone: 1-800-858-7378. FAX: 1-541-737-0761. E-mail: nptn@ace.orst.edu. Written requests can be mailed to: NPTN, Oregon State University, 333 Weniger, Corvallis, OR 97331-6502.

<http://ace.orst.edu/info/extoxnet/>

EXTOXNET—EXTension TOXicology NETWORK

The Extension Toxicology Network is an effort of the University of California, Davis, Oregon State University, Michigan State University, and Cornell University. Some of the goals are to stimulate dialog on toxicology issues, develop and make available information relevant to extension toxicology, and facilitate the exchange of toxicology-related information in electronic form.

The EXTOXNET InfoBase is accessible via the World Wide Web (WWW). The EXTOXNET InfoBase is searchable globally as well as within each topic area, allowing the user to selectively view and retrieve information.

Various types of pesticide toxicology and environmental chemistry information are available from the WWW server at Oregon State University. These include: discussions of toxicological issues of concern, toxicology newsletters, other resources for toxicology information, toxicology fact sheets, Pesticide Information Profiles, and Toxicology Information Briefs.

The information about these web sites was taken from general articles written by Terry L. Miller, Extension Pesticide Coordinator and Director, National Pesticide Telecommunications Network.

Insurance Coverage for Pesticide Businesses

At the last Pesticide Advisory Board meeting, the issue of insurance availability was discussed. Carolyn Morris, Bureau of Consumer Services, stated she had looked into the issue of applicators having trouble acquiring insurance, but she could not find any complaints. If there is a company who is denied insurance, the Insurance Department will investigate. Each insurance company has their own underwriter guidelines and does have the right to deny coverage to any individual or company.

Each of the 26 categories have different needs when it comes to insurance, i.e., park/school pest control needs are different than lawn and turf needs at a golf course. Insurance companies need to write a policy according to the needs of the business. John Tancelosky pointed out that PDA requires completed-operations coverage not pollution coverage. However, many insurance companies view pesticides as a pollutant. PDA has worked with the insurance industry to develop an insurance endorsement that covers the pesticides that companies typically use (# CG26160194). PDA has some flexibility when reviewing a businesses' insurance coverage.

Businesses must meet the requirements for comprehensive general liability insurance including coverage for pesticide applications. A minimum of \$200,000 coverage is required. This must include \$100,000 coverage for bodily injury and \$100,000

property damage, each occurrence. Coverage must include a statement that pesticide applications are included, or endorsement # CG26160194.

If your business is having difficulty locating insurance coverage, the following steps should be helpful:

1. Contact PDA at (717) 772-5216 and indicate the type of pesticide business you operate, i.e., lawn care, pest control, etc. We should be able to locate similar pesticide businesses and indicate the insurer that has filed an accepted certification of insurance. This information can be used to shop for the most appropriate coverage.
2. Should this effort prove unsuccessful, please contact Carolyn Morris at (717) 783-2153 or FAX (717) 787-8585 to file a complaint.

Finally, remind your insurance carrier to notify PDA of your annual renewal. PLEASE, have them show your BU# next to your business name, as this will allow us to serve you much faster. By listing the PA Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 as a certificate holder, this renewal notice should be automatic. Be assured that PDA will make every effort to help your business in this regard.

Prepared by: John Tancelosky, Chief, Division of Health and Safety, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

(Web Site con't from page 1)

indicated category (in each region) will be listed. During the winter meeting season, this list is updated weekly.

The **Fact Sheets** page has links to most of the Agrichemical Fact Sheets including:

- ❖ Respiratory Protective Devices for Pesticides
- ❖ Safe Use of Pesticides Around the Home
- ❖ How to Handle Chemical Spills
- ❖ Toxicity and Potential Health Effects of Pesticides
- ❖ The Fate of Pesticides in the Environment
- ❖ Options for In-field Pesticide Sprayer Rinsing and Clean Water Utilization
- ❖ Horticultural Spray Adjuvants
- ❖ Transporting Pesticides in Pennsylvania
- ❖ EPA Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides
- ❖ Pennsylvania Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry

All these fact sheets can be printed from the web.

The following four pages have various articles that you can read and print. **Articles of Interest** has articles on different topics from various sources. **Newsletters** contains the *PA Pesticide Highlights* newsletter done jointly by the Pesticide Education Program at Penn State and the PA Department of Agriculture. **Pesticide Regulatory Issues** contains articles about pesticide information and regulatory issues. In addition, the Penn State Pesticide Impact Assessment Program (PIAP) home page can be linked to from here. This home page has several pages

including reregistration updates. Bill Hoffman, the Penn State PIAP Coordinator, maintains this page. The **Archives** page was just added. Every six months we will move all the "dated" articles to the archives from the following pages: Monthly Feature, Articles of Interest, Newsletters, and Pesticide Regulatory Issues. The articles are sorted by topic so they can be easily found.

The last two pages pull the entire web site together. **What's New** lists the new things we added to the web site by month. Instead of having to go through all the pages to find the new stuff, one can look at this page and see everything that has been added. If something looks interesting, a link takes you there directly. **Basic Information** is a fast way to find the basic information scattered all over our web site, such as how to find recertification meetings, the PDA regional map, and fact sheets.

We think our web page is a useful resource for professionals working in the pesticide business. Our web page is continually growing and changing. After you look around our site, sign our **Guest Book**. We are interested in what people are looking for on our web page and what they found useful. Also, we would like to hear any comments or suggestions you have about the web page.

Written By: Sharon Gripp, Publications Specialist, Pesticide Education Program, Penn State University

Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will again be conducting the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program this year in many areas of the Commonwealth. If you have clean containers for recycling, the schedule in Table 1 lists the collection site locations and dates for your area.

In order to participate in this program, applicators must insure that containers are free of all product, inside and outside. Pressure rinsing or triple rinsing each container is required. In addition, all labels and plastic sleeves must be removed and the caps should be discarded, as they are made from non-recyclable plastic. Only #2 HDPE plastic containers from EPA-registered agricultural, structural, turf, forestry, and specialty pest control products, as well as containers from adjuvants, crop oil, surfactants, and fertilizers can be accepted.

The recycling program, which is available to all pesticide users, is entering the fifth year for collection of containers. Over 96,000 containers have already been accepted from 1994 through 1997. All containers were granulated into chips and entered into a special recycling program sponsored by the American Crop Protection Association. Some collected plastic has already gone back into production of crop protection product containers. Other uses of recycled plastic include fence posts, signs, plastic pallets, and energy recovery. This year, the program will again expand to include 60 collection sites in 28 counties.

Plastic pesticide container recycling benefits PA pesticide applicators and the general public in many ways:

- ❖ Rinsing all pesticide into their spray tank, pesticide applicators get maximum product for their money.
- ❖ Recycled containers reduce unsightly clutter and provide for needed landfill space.
- ❖ Recycled containers do not contaminate the air or groundwater by being burned or buried.

For more information on the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at (717) 772-5210, your PDA regional office, or the appropriate Penn State Cooperative Extension office in your county. If your area is not currently included in this program, contact your pesticide dealer, county agent, or PDA regional office and encourage them to promote container recycling in your county.

We congratulate the following businesses and agricultural chemical suppliers in Table 1 on their responsible and cooperative attitude towards recycling.

Thank You!

Written by: John Pari and Roger Coup, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Table 1. Cooperating Businesses in the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program.

Unless otherwise noted, **am** times are 9 to 11:30 am and **pm** times are 12:30 to 3 pm.

City	Business	Date & Time
Arendtsville	Helena Chemical	6/23, 8/19, 9/15 am
Aspers	Adams County Nursery	6/23, 8/19, 9/15 pm
Bangor	Reading Bone/Agway	8/13 9 am-3 pm
Belleville	Union Mill	6/19, 7/15 pm
Berrysburg	Henninger's Mill	8/25 am
Blain	West Perry Farm Service	7/7 am, 8/12 pm
Catawissa	Rohrbach's Farm Market	6/16, 9/16 pm
Carlisle	Andgrow Fertilizer	7/17 am
Coburn	Martin's Feed & Fertilizer	6/17, 7/13 pm
Coplay	Reading Bone/Agway	8/13 pm
Culbertson	Andgrow Fertilizer	6/30 pm
Curryville	Agway Inc.	6/18, 7/14 pm
Delta	Service Feed & Supply	6/25, 8/3 am
East Berlin	Andgrow Fertilizer	6/29, 8/20 pm
Easton	George Seiple & Son	8/13 am
Elizabethville	Upper Dauphin Grain Ctr.	6/22 pm, 7/16 am
Ephrata	Henry B. Hoover Inc.	8/18 pm
Gettysburg	AG Com	6/1, 6/29, 8/20 am
Greenbriar	Snyder's Mill	6/22 am
Hanover	Hostetter Farm Supply	6/24, 8/4 pm
Harrisburg	PA Dept. of Ag.	6/22, 7/16 pm
Honey Brook	Moyer & Son	7/20 pm
Jefferson	Codorus Fertilizer	8/4 am
Kreamer	Kreamer Feed Store	8/11 am
Lancaster	Lesco, Inc.	6/9, 8/24 am
Lebanon	J. Patches	6/8, 7/6 pm
Leesport	Agway Inc.	7/21 am

City	Business	Date & Time
Little Britain	Agri. Supply	6/4, 7/1, 8/17 am
Manheim	G&G Feed & Supply	6/9, 7/1, 8/24 pm
Mechanicsburg	Lesco, Inc.	6/1, 8/25 pm
Mercersburg	Agronomy Inc.	6/2, 6/30, 8/5 am
Mifflinville	Helena Chemical	6/16, 7/9 am
Millerstown	N.O. Bonsall & Sons	6/11, 7/7 pm
Moosic	Lesco, Inc.	6/10 am
Mt. Pleasant Mills	Lauver's	8/11 pm
Muncy	Kepner Farm Supply	8/10 pm
New Holland	Martin's Ag	6/8, 7/6, 8/18 am
Newville	Andgrow Fertilizer	6/3, 8/6 am
Pleasant Gap	Agway Inc.	6/17, 7/13 am
Port Royal	Annlick Farm Supply	6/11, 8/12 am
Reading	Moyer & Son	7/20 am
Red Lion	D.E. Horn	6/25, 8/3 pm
Ringtown	Jarzinko's	7/9 pm
Shady Grove	Chester Horst	6/2, 8/5 pm
Shippensburg	CV Coop.	6/3, 8/6 pm
Shrewsbury	Helena Chemical	6/24 am
Strasburg	Ben Landis	6/4 pm
Strausstown	Anthony's Feed Mill	7/21 pm
Thompstontown	Agronomy Center	7/7 am
Turbotville	Ag. Resources	6/15, 7/8, 8/10 am
Warriors Mark	Helena Chemical	6/19, 7/15 am
White Horse	Gideon King	8/17 pm
Williamsburg	Mill Hill Agway	7/14 am
Winfield	Agway Inc.	6/15, 7/8 pm

CHEMSWEEP Waste Pesticide Collection Update

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has entered into what could be the final year of the CHEMSWEEP Waste Pesticide Collection Program. Over 600 participants, including farms, pesticide application businesses, and homeowners, have enrolled to have their old, cancelled, or unwanted pesticides collected this year at no cost to them. An independent licensed hazardous waste hauler, MSE Environmental, Inc, has scheduled counties in northcentral, northeastern, and southeastern Pennsylvania for collections during July and August of 1998. With the May 1998 collection in southwestern and southcentral Pennsylvania, the Department anticipates collecting over 150 to 175 thousand pounds of waste during these three months of the program.

In addition to the farm and commercial business collections, the Department collected household pesticide in 12 locations in southwestern and southcentral Pennsylvania in May 1998. Last year was the first year for household pesticide collections and over 7,000 pounds of household pesticides were collected from several hundred

participants.

Since the inception of the collection program in 1990, over 646,000 pounds of waste pesticides have been collected. The CHEMSWEEP Waste Pesticide Collection Program does not cost the participant anything; the cost is picked up by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Once this year is completed, collection will have been offered in all 67 counties of Pennsylvania. After this year, the Department will evaluate whether this program will be continued based on further interest.

To help the PDA make an informed decision about the continuation of the CHEMSWEEP program, please take a few minutes to complete the survey below and mail it to: PA Dept. of Agriculture, ATTN: John Pari, 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408. For more information about this program, contact John Pari at (717) 772-5210.

Written by: John Pari, Geologist, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Cut survey here.

CHEMSWEEP Program Survey

1. Have you ever participated in the CHEMSWEEP Program? (Circle the number of your answer.)
 - 1 YES, if so, please estimate the cost savings to your business by participating in this program.
\$ _____ Cost Savings
 - 2 NO, if not, were you aware that the CHEMSWEEP Program is available to pesticide application businesses at no charge? (Circle the number of your answer.)
 - 1 YES
 - 2 NO
2. Please estimate how much old, cancelled, or unwanted pesticides you have on hand.
 - A. Pounds _____
 - B. Gallons _____
3. If this program were continued, would you consider using it in the future? (Circle the number of your answer.)
 - 1 YES
 - 2 NO
4. Do you think homeowners would benefit if the CHEMSWEEP Program was expanded to include them on a regular basis? (Circle the number of your answer.)
 - 1 YES
 - 2 NO
 - 3 DON'T KNOW
5. Does your county or local government offer any type of waste disposal program? (Circle the number of your answer.)
 - 1 YES, if so, please indicate the County Name _____ or Local Gov't Name _____
 - 2 NO
 - 3 DON'T KNOW

Thank you for your time.
Please mail the survey to:

PA Dept. of Agriculture, ATTN: John Pari
2301 N. Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Integrated Pest Management In Pennsylvania Schools

The Pennsylvania Integrated Pest Management (PAIPM) program is a collaboration of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania State University, College of Agriculture Sciences. PAIPM has been actively involved in the promotion of IPM in the state since 1989. Most of this activity has been directed toward agricultural activities like crop farming, orchards, ornamentals, horticultural crops, greenhouses, etc. However, more recently there has been an increased interest in structural IPM especially in relation to pest control in the school environment.

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM uses current information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with the genetic, biological, cultural and chemical pest controls available, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means available.

Why Consider IPM Program in the School Environment? When a pesticide is needed it is applied on a spot treatment basis whenever possible and targeted to the specific pest present. Generally, the least toxic, shortest duration, effective material is used.

How Did PAIPM Get Involved With IPM in Schools? Over the last few years, concerned parents attended the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Advisory Board in support of the various legislative efforts to make parent notification of pesticide use in schools mandatory. Part of these bills also required the mandatory use of IPM by all schools. These parents had a positive experience with IPM programs in their local schools as an alternative to currently accepted pest control programs and felt it should be made mandatory statewide.

While these issues continued to be debated in the state legislature, the PAIPM Program decided to promote the voluntary adoption of IPM pest control systems to Pennsylvania schools by pointing out the benefits of IPM as currently being practiced in some Pennsylvania schools.

The PAIPM Program prepared an introductory IPM package including:

- ❖ a handout of IPM principles and how to get started,
- ❖ a bulletin listing the benefits to schools adopting

IPM,

- ❖ a "sample" IPM contract to be used as a check list of items to consider in setting up an IPM contract, and
- ❖ a video.

The video focused on two school systems in Pennsylvania already using IPM successfully; one from the standpoint of a school official with ten years experience using IPM and one from the perspective of a commercial applicator responsible for implementing the program in local school facilities. This package was mailed out to all public and private, non-public schools in Pennsylvania in November and December of 1996.

IPM in schools is information intensive and concentrates heavily on prevention, sanitation, maintenance, monitoring and records. Pesticides are used on an as needed basis as determined by monitoring.

Survey: To determine the current level of IPM adoption in Pennsylvania, a one page survey was prepared in October, 1997. A total of 4,000 copies were distributed by PDA Bureau of Food Safety Inspectors, in conjunction with their regular duties, to poll

school officials. Results of the survey should be available by August of 1998. The information obtained will help the PAIPM Program determine the direction of future IPM education efforts and programs.

Future: The Governor signed an IPM line item for \$50,000 in the budget to support an IPM education program directed at the state's 29 Intermediate Units.

Summary: IPM in schools is an idea whose time has come. Everyone wants to provide the safest learning environment for our children. With IPM, we know what the pest situation is at any given time. If pest populations are not at damaging thresholds, pest control is not necessary under an IPM program. For IPM methods to be successful, school officials, teachers, students, staff, and pest control contractors must be vigilant and cooperate in the prevention, sanitation, and maintenance of school facilities.

NOTE: Copies of the IPM in Schools video are available upon request on a loan basis from the Regional offices of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry.

For further information contact:

- ❖ Lee B. Bentz, IPM Coordinator, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, (717) 772-5204, FAX: (717) 783-3275
- ❖ Dr. Ed Rajotte, IPM Coordinator, Penn State University, (814) 863-4641, FAX: (814) 865-3048

Pesticide Applicator Certification Examination Updates

About six months ago, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture implemented two major exam changes. First, the CORE Pesticide Applicator Certification Examination for public/commercial applicators is now **closed** book. Second, the length of the entire exam session is only three hours long, regardless of the number of exams being taken. However, future pesticide applicators can use the new study packets and practice answering sample test questions in the study guide to help them prepare for these exam changes.

In October 1997, the core exam went closed book. Although this exam was previously open book, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture felt that the information covered in the core exam should be fundamental knowledge to anyone applying pesticides. A closed book exam format should strongly encourage future pesticide applicators to have a thorough understanding of these basic pesticide use practices.

However, the private pesticide applicator certification exam and all the category exams for public/commercial applicators are still **open** book. The new category exams will cover a vast amount of detailed information. For this reason, the PDA felt that an open book format would encourage future pesticide applicators to use their study packets as reference materials, not only to pass the exam, but on the job as well.

In addition, the PDA is implementing a new three-hour exam session. In that exam session, you may take the entire three hours to complete just one exam or you may complete two or more exams. However, at the end of the exam session, you must turn in whatever exam you are working on, regardless of when you started the exam. The reason for this change was simple. Many people would come to the exam session unprepared knowing that the exams were open book and the exam sessions were not timed. This type of format often led to long testing sessions because people looked up most answers in the

study materials. The process was an inefficient use of time, and not a good method of testing the knowledge of future pesticide applicators.

To help future pesticide applicators prepare for the exams, the PSU Department of Distance Education sells study packets for most of the exams. Information about the study packets, their cost, and how to order can be found on the PSU Pesticide Education Program web site at <http://www.pested.psu.edu/examfr.html> or by calling the telephone number below. An order form for the study packets is available on the web site also at <http://www.pested.psu.edu/orderfm.html>. Please note

A closed book exam format should strongly encourage future pesticide applicators to have a thorough understanding of basic pesticide use practices.

that you must fill out the form **after** you print it. FAX the completed form to (814) 865-3290 or mail it to the Department of Distance Education, 207 Mitchell Building, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802-3601. For questions or to phone your order, call 1-800-252-3592

(or 865-5403 if in the State College area). If calling, have your Visa or Master Card ready.

We also have a Guide to taking the CORE Exam on our web site at <http://www.pested.psu.edu/g00core.html>. This guide contains the content areas covered on the exam, a list of the study materials included in the study packet available from the Department of Distance Education, ten sample questions, and instructions on how to order study materials. This guide is also included in the study packet.

Currently, all the category exams are in the process of being revised. Specialists are working to prepare several hundred new multiple-choice questions using new reference materials for each category. With such a large bank of questions to choose from, the PDA can have different exams for the same category at each exam session. As the PDA starts using new exams, we will put a corresponding Guide to taking the category exam on-line.

Written By: Sharon Gripp, Publications Specialist, Pesticide Education Program, Penn State University

Registered Technician Information

Registered technicians (RT) are applicators that have completed the minimum training requirements under the direction of an applicator with at least one year's certification in the category of training. The training must follow the process outlined below:

- ❖ The business submits a list of people that it intends to register as technicians to the PA Department of Agriculture on the form approved by the department.
- ❖ The postmarked date will indicate the beginning of the required 30-day training.
- ❖ At the end of the 30-day period, and upon completion of appropriate training, applicators may be registered with the PDA.

- ❖ Upon receiving RT status, they may make applications without a certified applicator present.
- ❖ However, registered technicians must be under the supervision of a certified applicator that can be on site within 5 hours if necessary.

A technician's registration may not be transferred from one business to another. RT must be re-registered and receive update training on an annual basis. The annual fee for RT is \$20.00. For more information, or for approved forms to submit the list of potential registered technicians, contact the nearest Regional PDA office.

Written by: Kerry Hoffman, Sr. Extension Associate, Pesticide Education Program at Penn State University

Termiticide Applications and Water Contamination

Each year water contamination occurs as a result of structures being treated with termiticide products. Contaminations have occurred to both ground and surface water. In some cases, the pesticide product label use directions were followed exactly and water contamination still occurred.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture conducts pesticide use investigations when contaminations are reported. An inspector is sent to the site of the pesticide treatment to collect pertinent facts on the application procedures. The facts gathered during the investigation are later reviewed to determine whether the applicator properly used the pesticide.

Almost all cases where some degree of negligence was involved, it was the failure of the application business to identify and locate water supplies (including drains) at the site and properly treat those areas according to specific

label directions. Water supplies include any type of drain system, including water service into a structure. Please refer to the termiticide labels which your company commonly uses for additional clarification.

Pesticide application businesses may be able to avoid contaminations by inquiring about the location of any water supplies and drainage systems at the time of the initial inspection.

Last year, Pesticide Regulation (PR) Notice #96-7 went into effect for the Environmental Protection Agency. This PR Notice required significant label changes to all termiticide products, which will be distributed in the U.S.

Among numerous changes, several involved methods which may help decrease the number of water contaminations when used as directed. Termiticide

treatment restrictions are required for structures that contain a working or usable cistern. If the cistern has been permanently disabled, the structure may be treated using normal methods.

For wells, the treatment techniques included must consider the proximity of the well to the structure, soil type, and the characteristics of the termiticide.

Specifically, the product label must include, for structures with wells/cisterns inside their foundations, that it can only be used in the following manners:

1. Soil beneath or within the foundation walls or exterior perimeter of a structure may only be treated using the treated backfill method and
2. Treat infested and/or damaged wood in place using an injection technique.

For structures with adjacent wells/cisterns and/or other water bodies,

the applicator must inspect the structure. Other bodies of water include ponds and streams. The applicator must then evaluate the treatment recommendations prior to making the application.

1. If feasible, expose water pipes, within three feet of grade, coming from the well to the structure, prior to treatment,
2. Evaluate whether application to the top of the footing may result in contamination of subsurface drains that empty into any bodies of water, and
3. Use the treated backfill method on the water side of the structure to minimize off-target movement.

Written by: Joseph Uram, Pesticide Enforcement Specialist, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Pesticide Enforcement Actions

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has a program for educating and training those who are responsible for complying with the PA Pesticide Control Act of 1973. Although compliance assistance before enforcement is the philosophy of the Department, some instances warrant enforcement action.

Between March 1997 and March 1998, the PDA conducted a total of 28 investigations of agricultural pesticide use complaints and 130 investigations of non-agricultural pesticide use complaints. In addition, a significant amount of routine

applicator and dealer record keeping inspections were completed. The following enforcement actions, either Notices of Warnings or Civil Penalties, were initiated or

completed by the Bureau of Plant Industry during this time period. Overall, 56 Notices of Warnings were issued and 25 Civil Penalties were assessed. The Civil Penalties fines

ranged from \$100 to \$1,600 with an average fine of \$532. The number of enforcement actions along with a brief description of the violation is provided in Table 1 on the following page.

Although compliance assistance before enforcement is the philosophy of the Department, some instances warrant enforcement action.

Table 1. Notice of Warnings and Civil Penalties Issued from March 1997 through March 1998.

Number of Enforcement Action	Businesses Issued for:
26 Notices of Warnings	Failing to maintain all required pesticide use records
5 Notices of Warnings	Failing to have a certified applicator at a job site
1 Notice of Warning	Causing a termiticide puddle in a basement
1 Notice of Warning	Failing to maintain technician training records
6 Civil Penalties	Operating without a business license and allowing non-certified/registered applicators to apply pesticides
	Dealers Issued For:
4 Notices of Warnings	Distributing a restricted pesticide to a non-certified person
2 Notices of Warnings	Failing to maintain all required distribution records for restricted pesticide sales
2 Notices of Warnings	Distributing non-registered pesticides
1 Civil Penalty	Distributing a restricted pesticide to a private applicator with an expired permit
	Individuals Issued For:
1 Notice of Warning	Aiding another to evade the provisions of the act in order to renew a private applicator permit
1 Civil Penalty	Purchasing a restricted pesticide with an expired private applicator permit
1 Civil Penalty	Providing false written reports to the Department during an investigation
	Private Applicators Issued For:
1 Notice of Warning	Causing herbicide drift off the target site
1 Notice of Warning	Applying Furadan insecticide in areas where waterfowl are known to feed
1 Civil Penalty	Causing drift beyond the target field site
	Agricultural Commercial Applicators Issued For:
1 Notice of Warning	Using a pesticide inconsistent with label directions
1 Notice of Warning	Applying pesticides in a category area they were not certified
	Miscellaneous Issued For:
5 Notices of Warnings	Agricultural Employers—Failing to maintain Worker Protection Standard records or providing decontamination equipment
3 Notices of Warnings	Non-Permitted Individuals—Attempting to purchase restricted pesticides
1 Notice of Warning	Homeowner—Broadcast applying rodenticide in their yard
1 Notice of Warning	Poultry Operation—Treating facility with disinfectant by means of a humidification system
1 Civil Penalty	Manufacturer—Distributing an adulterated and non-registered pesticide
	Pest Control Businesses Issued For:
3 Civil Penalties	Allowing certified persons to apply pesticides in category areas outside of their current certification and failing to keep required pesticides use records
1 Civil Penalty	Allowing a non-certified applicator to apply pesticide and a certified applicator to apply pesticides in a category area outside of their current certification
1 Civil Penalty	Applying an insecticide at higher than label allowed use rates
1 Civil Penalty	Applying an excessive amount of insecticide foggers based upon the size of the structure
1 Civil Penalty	Failing to keep required technician training records and allowing a non-certified applicator to administer the technician's training
1 Civil Penalty	Failing to keep required technician training records and allowing non-certified/registered applicators to apply pesticides
1 Civil Penalty	Failing to pre-notify the resident on a contiguous property of the application of a restricted use pesticide
1 Civil Penalty	Applying pesticides to a non-labeled site, distributing restricted pesticides to a non-certified person, and failing to keep all required use records
	Lawn Care Businesses Issued For:
2 Civil Penalties	Failing to pre-notify a hypersensitive person of a pesticide application
1 Civil Penalty	Failing to water-in an insecticide as required by label directions
1 Civil Penalty	Causing herbicide drift beyond the target site, failing to keep all required use records, and applying pesticides in category areas outside of their current certification

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Pennsylvania



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