

The Pennsylvania Pesticide Urban Initiative

The misuse of agricultural pesticides in structural pest control settings has had a significant health impact, with substantial economic costs to the EPA and states where incidents have occurred. Further, the negative image that has been associated with all pesticides was enhanced by press reports. To date, Pennsylvania has not experienced such misuse; this places us in a unique position to develop a Pesticide Urban Initiative.

The Pennsylvania Initiative will address the potential misuse issue through a program based on monitoring, enforcement, and prevention through an aggressive outreach education program. This program will provide information from a scientifically based health and safety viewpoint that appeals to the layperson.

This new program is designed to promote consumer health by providing an urban initiative strategy with the Pennsylvania Agromedicine Program, Pennsylvania Health Education Centers, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences' Pesticide Education Program, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. This outreach education program will not only address the misuse potential, but will also provide timely information for the safe storage, handling, and application of pesticides in the urban environment. In addition, the expansion of the CHEMSWEEP program will provide a vehicle for the environmentally responsible disposal of unwanted/unused pesticides typically found in the urban environment.

Studies conducted in areas of the United States that

have experienced the misuse of pesticides have demonstrated several common threads. Unscrupulous applicators who engaged in the illegal use of agricultural pesticides were perceived as being trustworthy by those individuals whose homes were rendered uninhabitable. An inherent trust existed between the applicator and the individual who sought treatment of their property. Implicit

The PA Pesticide Urban Initiative, an outreach education program, will not only address the misuse potential, but will also provide timely information for the safe storage, handling, and application of pesticides in the urban environment.

in these results was the simple fact that community vigilance by regulated applicators, who report suspected applications by unlicensed people, has worked quite effectively in the prevention of further misuse.

EPA data shows that 82 percent of households use pesticides. More than 20 percent have six or more pesticides in their home at one time. Yet the general public is the least likely

group of pesticide users to read and follow label directions. The objective of the Initiative is to present timely and usable information to the urban resident in a fashion that is consistent with their needs. This will be accomplished in a scientifically effective, yet friendly atmosphere. Finally, our goal is to educate the public on the necessity of pesticide uses. One issue that will be addressed is how to select a pest control operator.

For additional information or simply to discuss the program, please call Tom Oyler, Jr. at the PA Department of Agriculture at (717) 705-0815 or e-mail him at toyler@agric.state.pa.us. Please visit the PA Pesticide Urban Initiative web site at: <http://urbanpested.cas.psu.edu>

USDA Asks Penn State for Pesticide Use Information

The USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) recently requested crop production and pest management information for the commodities grown in Pennsylvania that children eat the most. The USDA and EPA will use these documents to implement the new Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). The Pennsylvania grown commodities that have been requested include:

Apples	Nectarines
Peaches	Strawberries
Green Beans	

At the April 20th meeting of the Northeast Pesticide Impact Assessment Program in Chicago, the OPMP asked Penn State's Pesticide Impact Assessment Program to submit documents that profile:

- ◆ What pests are a problem in these commodities
- ◆ Which chemical and non-chemical methods are used to control those pests

- ◆ To what extent the chemical methods are used in Pennsylvania

These "crop profiles" will provide real world information to pesticide regulatory decision-makers. They will paint a realistic picture of what pesticides are actually being used in the Commonwealth and prevent the use of "worst case scenarios." The use of worst case scenarios can dramatically overstate the risks associated with pesticides and result in less informed regulatory decision making.

Penn State's Pesticide Impact Assessment Program has already submitted similar crop profiles describing the state's production of mushrooms, pumpkins, potatoes, and tomatoes. The program is also preparing profiles on tart cherries, field corn, and grapes in addition to those recently requested.

Written by: Bill Hoffman, Coordinator of the Penn State Pesticide Impact Assessment Program

The Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry

What is the Registry?

The Pennsylvania Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry (Registry) is a list of people who are excessively or abnormally sensitive to pesticides. Section 128.112 of the Rules & Regulations promulgated under the Pennsylvania Pesticide Control Act requires that commercial and public businesses pre-notify individuals on the Hypersensitivity Registry of certain pesticide applications. Specifically, notification is required for those businesses applying pesticides within 500 feet of the primary or secondary location of anyone listed in the Registry, unless the type of pesticide application is exempted. Examples of exempted applications include:

1. Applications made within a single family residential detached structure,
2. An application made directly below the soil surface,
3. Applications of a pesticide in a tamper-resistant bait station,
4. Pesticide injections into trees, and
5. Applications of disinfectants or sanitizers.

Upon notification of a pesticide application, the sensitive individual can take appropriate precautions. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) maintains the list and mails it to each licensed commercial and public pesticide application business four times a year.

What are the notification requirements?

Notification is mandatory and must be made not less than 12 hours and not more than 72 hours prior to the pesticide application. Notification requirements are met if the information is placed on a telephone answering machine, or information is given to an adult contacted by dialing any of the listed telephone numbers. If after two telephone calls notification was not given, written notification can be placed on the front door of the listed location.

How do people get on the Registry?

To get on the Registry, one must fill out an application form. The primary location is the person's legal residence; a secondary location is limited to any of the following: place of employment, school, and vacation home. A daytime, nighttime and an alternative phone number must be given where notification information can be conveyed. In addition, a physician must complete a section on the form verifying that the person is hypersensitive to pesticide exposures.

What happens if you do not notify a person on the Registry of a pesticide application?

The PDA suggests that the person on the Registry contact the pesticide application business. They should explain that they are on the Registry and need notification of any pesticide applications. Also, the PDA suggests the person contact the Agronomic Products Inspector at their PDA Regional Office. The inspector will record the information regarding the complaint and assist in the appropriate manner, which may include a warning letter or a fine assessed to the pesticide application business.

What are some recent examples of commercial applicator Registry violations?

During 1998, four violations of failing to properly notify individuals on the Registry were documented by the PDA. Two civil penalties were assessed to businesses for completely failing to notify an individual. The penalties ranged from \$400 to \$1,000. Two warning letters were also issued to

businesses for failing to provide complete notification elements to the individuals.

What can businesses do to stay in compliance?

Each commercial and public business should review this Section of the Rules & Regulations with their staff to assure they understand and comply with all notification requirements. Please note that it is ultimately the responsibility of each business making pesticide applications to make certain that required notification is completed. Delegating this task to another party does not relieve you of this requirement.

Why is the Registry important?

The Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry is important to both the application business and to the people on the list. The application business can continue making pesticide applications with the added responsibility of notifying the people on the Registry in advance. This notification allows those persons on the Registry to take the appropriate precautions to protect themselves from the pesticide application.

Written by: Joe Uram, Enforcement Specialist, PA Department of Agriculture and Sharon Gripp, Publications Specialist, Penn State Pesticide Education Program. The Pennsylvania Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry Fact Sheet, published by the PA Department of Agriculture, was also used.

The PA Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry is important to both the application business and to the people on the list. The application business can continue to make applications, while advance notice permits people on the Registry to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves.

Are your recertification credits up-to-date? Look for a mail statement from the PA Dept. of Agriculture in mid-July.

Increased Fees Proposed

The PA Department of Agriculture placed before the Pesticide Advisory Board a proposal to adjust fees charged for various pesticide program related licenses. Many of the fees have remained unchanged since the Pennsylvania Pesticide Control Act was passed in 1973. The last fee adjustment was nearly ten years ago according to John Tacelosky, Chief of the Division of Health and Safety.

The pesticide programs are funded from three sources: fees charged for program licenses, pesticide product registrations, and EPA grants. The PA Department of Agriculture must administer the pesticide program from these funding sources as no funding is received from tax dollars. Over the past few years the Department has responded to requests to provide increased services to citizens of the Commonwealth in addition to increases in operating expenses. The monies received from these sources fund the operational costs of the Division of Health and Safety, in addition to the following programs:

- ◆ **CHEMSWEEP**—where 834,000 pounds of pesticides have been disposed of since 1993. This program, which was originally limited to commodity producers, has been expanded to include homeowners, and public and commercial applicators.
- ◆ **Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling**—where 129,000 containers have been collected since 1994.
- ◆ **State Management Plans**—ground water monitoring and testing of 125 different wells per year.
- ◆ **Enforcement Actions**—investigate pesticide complaints and conduct over 1,000 inspections per year.
- ◆ **Recertification Update Meetings**—supports the use of three methods for applicators to find meeting information: the toll-free telephone number, the FAX Back system, and the web page.
- ◆ **Support of Penn State University's Pesticide Education Program**—which, in addition to many other services, provides educational materials for pesticide users.
- ◆ **Support of the Pesticide Impact Assessment Program**—which collects and reports data about

pesticide use and usage on various agricultural commodities.

- ◆ **Support of the Pennsylvania Pesticide Urban Initiative**—which provides educational information to the consumer on the safe use of pesticides and informs them of the need to hire only licensed pesticide applicators.

For the Department to continue providing the industry and citizens of the Commonwealth with this level of service, the fees must be adjusted to meet projected deficits in the next few years. The following fee adjustments along with the justifications for the increases were presented to the Board for review and consideration.

Fee Type:	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Product Registration	\$100/year	\$175/year
Pesticide Business Licenses		
Commercial	\$25/year	\$100/year
Public	\$25/year	\$50/year
Certification		
Commercial	\$30/year	\$90/year
Public	\$10/ 3 years	\$60/ 3 years
Private	\$10/ 3 years	\$30/ 3 years
Registered Technicians		
Commercial	\$20/year	\$70/year
Public	\$20/year	\$20/year
Pesticide Dealers License	\$10/year	\$100/year

If you would like to comment on the fee increase, please e-mail us at bpi@agric.state.pa.us or write to the Department care-of-the Bureau of Plant Industry, Division of Health and Safety, 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408. Comments received will be reviewed and responded to in future articles and/or mailings.

Written by: Dave Scott, Pesticide Certification and Education Specialist, PA Department of Agriculture

Finding Pesticide Labels on the Web

Several web sites allow you to look up pesticide labels and material safety data sheets (MSDS) by brand name or company name at no charge. In order to view the labels and MSDS, you must have the free Adobe Acrobat Reader plug-in for your browser, which is available from Adobe's web site at <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html#reader>.

Some of these sites offer premium services (for a fee). For example, the two Chemical & Pharmaceutical Press, Inc.'s sites can do searches by crop and site, pest use (disease, insect, weeds), product category, and common name if you buy their premium service. They do offer a free one-month subscription to see if you like the service.

Here are the web sites:

- ◆ Crop Data Management Systems, Inc.:
<http://www.cdms.net/>
- ◆ Chemical & Pharmaceutical Press, Inc.
 - ◆ Crop Protection Reference:
<http://greenbook.net/>
 - ◆ Turf and Ornamental Reference:
<http://www.bluebooktor.com/>
- ◆ University of Vermont:
<http://hazard.com/msds/index.html>

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

Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's (PDA) Bureau of Plant Industry will again administer the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program. This year pesticide users may bring their cleaned empty containers to 68 collection site locations in 29 counties listed below.

Containers must be free of visible pesticide residues both inside and outside the container. Pressure rinsing or triple rinsing each container is required. Only #2 HDPE plastic containers from any EPA registered agricultural, structural, turf, forestry, and specialty pest control products as well as containers from adjuvants, crop oil, surfactants, sanitizers, and fertilizer will be acceptable. Motor oil, antifreeze, and household containers will not be accepted.

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 listed below on their responsible and cooperative attitude towards recycling.

Thank You!

Written by: Phil Pitzer, Environmental and Safety Specialist, PA Department of Agriculture

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 am
Aspers	Adams County Nursery	6/23 pm
Bangor	Reading Bone Agway	7/20 9 am-3 pm
Belleville	Union Mill/Chemgro	7/14 pm
Berrysburg	M.G. Henninger & Son	8/23 am
Bethel	Ag Chem	7/23 pm
Catawissa	Rohrbach's Farm Market	**
Carlisle	Andgrow Fertilizer	**
Coburn	Martin's Feed & Fertilizer	7/12 pm
Cochranville	Milford Fertilizer	7/22 am
Codorus	Codorus Fertilizer Service	6/21, 8/24 pm
Culbertson	Andgrow Fertilizer	8/11 pm
Curryville	Agway Farm Supply	7/13 am
Delta	Service Feed & Supply	8/17 pm
East Berlin	Andgrow Fertilizer	8/25 am
Easton	George Seiple & Son	8/13 am
Elizabethville	Reading Bone Agway	**
Elizabethville	Upper Dauphin Grain	**
Ephrata	Henry B. Hoover Agway	7/6, 8/16 pm
Easton	George V. Seiple & Son	7/20 pm
Gardners	Rice Fruit Company	7/19 am
Gettysburg	AG COM	6/22, 8/24 am
Greenbrier	Snyder's Mill	6/30 pm
Hanover	Hostetter Farm Supply	6/22, 8/25 pm
Harrisburg	Lesco	8/12 am
Harrisburg	PA Dept. of Ag.	8/12 pm
Ironton	Reading Bone Agway	7/20 am
Jersey Shore	Doebler's Hybrids	6/28 1-3:00pm
Kinzers	Gideon King	8/18 pm
Kreamer	Kreamer Feed	7/1 am
Lancaster	Lesco	8/19 am
Lancaster	Weaver Spray Materials	7/7, 8/19 pm
Leck Kill	Masser's Produce	6/30 pm
Leesport	Reading Bone Agway	7/23 am
Mechanicsburg	Lesco	8/12 am

City	Business	Date & Time
Mechanicsburg	Spring Green Lawn & Tree Care	8/11 am
Mercersburg	Agronomy	6/24, 8/10 am
Manheim	G&G Distributors Agway	7/8, 8/19 pm
Middleburg	Moyer's Agway	8/4 am
Mifflinville	Helena Chemical	6/30 am
Mill Hall	Webb's Super-Gro	6/28 pm
Millerstown	N.O. Bonsall & Sons	8/5 pm
Moosic	Lesco	**
Mt. Pleasant Mills	Ivan Lauver & Son	7/1, 8/4 pm
Muncy	Kepner Farm Supply	6/28 am
Myerstown	James H. Patches	7/8 am
New Enterprise	Ag-Chem	7/13 am
New Holland	Martin's Ag Service	7/6, 8/16 am
Orrtanna	Knouse Foods Cooperative	7/19 pm
Oxford	Ag Chem	7/22 pm
Pleasant Gap	Agway Crops Center	7/12 am
Port Royal	Annlick Farm Supply	8/5 am
Quarryville	Little Britain Agri Supply	7/7, 8/18 am
Reading	Moyer & Son	7/21 pm
Red Lion	Red Lion Grain Center	8/17 pm
Shady Grove	Chester Horst	6/24, 8/10 pm
Shippensburg	CV Coop	8/11 pm
Shrewsbury	Helena Chemical	6/21, 8/17 am
Somerset	Walker's Farm Service	7/15 am
Souderton	Moyer & Son	7/21 am
Strasburg	Landis Spraying Service	7/7 12:30-2 pm
Strausstown	Anthony's Feed Mill	7/23 pm
Thompsontown	Agronomy Center	8/5 am
Towanda	Agway	8/2 10am-12:30pm
Turbotville	Ag Resources	6/29, 8/3 am
Warriors Mark	Helena Chemical	7/14 am
Washingtonville	Crop Production Services	**
Williamsburg	Mill Hill Agway Farm Supply	7/13 pm
Winfield	Agway Crops Center	6/29, 8/3 pm

**1999 Collections are completed. Thanks for your participation.

Hand Sprayer Calibration

Hand sprayers should be calibrated before applying any materials. Calibration for herbicide application is simply making a trial on a known area and determining the application rate. The method below is easy, quick, and accurate if measurements are made carefully. The procedure is for knapsack (backpack) sprayers but will also work with most hand sprayers.

1. On an area that best represents the average topography for the area to be sprayed, measure and mark off the Calibration Distance that coincides with your band width, if band applying, or your nozzle spacing (width covered by a single nozzle) if broadcast applying. See Table 1.

Calibration Distance = _____ Feet

2. Fill the sprayer with water only and record the number of seconds required to walk the Calibration Distance at a comfortable, steady speed while spraying and pumping to maintain a uniform pressure.

Time = _____ Seconds

3. While pumping to maintain the selected application pressure, collect the spray output from one nozzle for the same number of seconds needed to travel the Calibration Distance. *The number of fluid ounces collected equals the gallons per acre (GPA) applied.* Example: With a 32" band, if it took 28 seconds to travel 127', collect the nozzle discharge for 28 seconds.

Collected Water = _____ Fluid Ounces

4. If using a boom, repeat step 3 two more times collecting water from a different nozzle each time. *The average number of ounces collected for each of the three nozzles is equal to the gallons of water applied per acre for that boom, speed, and pressure.*

5. To determine the amount of chemical to add to the spray tank, divide the capacity of the tank by the number of gallons of water per acre (GPA) to determine the fraction of an acre that can be covered with a tankful of spray. Example: 3.0 gallon tank divided by 16 GPA = 0.19 acre covered per tank.

6. Multiply the application rate of the product per acre times the fraction of the acre covered per tank and add that amount of chemical to the sprayer tank. Example: 2 qts/acre = 64 fl oz/acre * 0.19 acre/tank = 12 oz/tank
Example: 5 lbs/acre = 80 oz/acre * 0.19 acre/tank = 15 oz/tank

Hand sprayers require skilled operators to achieve a uniform broadcast application. A simple and quick test is to spray an area on a paved surface with water in your normal spraying manner on a warm day. In a few minutes the drying pattern will indicate your distribution. Fast drying areas indicate low application rates while slow drying areas received high amounts of spray. Uniform drying without streaks indicates uniform application. Practice until uniform distribution is obtained.

Table 1. Select Calibration Distance to be used on nozzle spacing if broadcast applying, or on band width if band applying.

Band Width or Nozzle Spacing	Calibration Distance
10 inches	408 feet*
12 inches	340 feet
16 inches	255 feet
18 inches	227 feet
20 inches	204 feet
24 inches	170 feet
28 inches	146 feet
32 inches	127 feet
36 inches	113 feet
40 inches	102 feet

*For calibration of a small walk behind or hand-carried boom having a 10 inch nozzle spacing use a distance of 102 feet and multiply the time of walking by four (4).

Copied From: Hand Sprayer Calibration, PSU Agricultural Engineering Fact Sheet by Donald R. Daum and Larry J. Kuhns.

Termiticide Label Changes

In 1996, EPA notified manufacturers and producers of termiticide products of a change in the Agency's policy concerning label statements and minimum product performance for soil treatment termiticide products. Termiticides produced after January 1, 1998 were required to have new labels.

If you are making termite applications, then you are probably using products with the new label language. Take some additional time to review these labels before making your applications. Some of the new requirements set forth by the Agency notice are:

- ◆ Requiring trenching and rodding from the trench.

- ◆ Applicators must use labeled rates for preconstruction treatments.
- ◆ Clarification of language on treating structures containing wells and cisterns.
- ◆ Retreatment statement, "Annual retreatment of the structure is prohibited unless there is clear evidence that reinfestation or barrier disruption has occurred."

Always check the soil condition before making your application. Termiticide labels have precautionary statements that prohibit applications to frozen or saturated soils.

1999 CHEMSWEEP Program

The 1999 Pennsylvania CHEMSWEEP Program will begin the first full week in September. Participating counties include **Armstrong, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Cambria, Chester, Crawford, Erie, Indiana, Juniata, Luzerne, Montgomery, Perry, Susquehanna, and York.** All farmers, commercial applicators, distributors, dealers, and homeowners residing in these counties are eligible.

The purpose of the CHEMSWEEP Program is to collect and dispose of banned, unusable, and unwanted

pesticide products. Only EPA registered pesticide products are eligible for collection. Collection does not cost the participant anything, and once accepted by the contractor there is no further liability to the participant. Contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Regional Office in your area for further details and an inventory form.

Written by: Phil Pitzer, Environmental and Safety Specialist, PA Department of Agriculture

Pesticide Registered Technician Registration and Training

Thinking of registering an employee as a Registered Pesticide Technician with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA)? The process is not difficult, but does have several required steps as stated in the PA Pesticide Control Act and related regulations. The following pointers will help avoid delays or rejection of your application(s).

At the minimum, thirty (30) days of training are required for registration. The thirty days begins with the postmark date on the envelope (or the date a fax is received) of your written notice to the PDA that you intend to register a technician. The Department does have a form (Number API 414) available, however a letter is also acceptable. Include the following information in your request:

- ◆ Your business's name, address, telephone number, and BU number.
- ◆ The name (including middle initial) of the person(s) you wish to register and their date of birth.

The PDA will process an application(s) to register the technician(s) and return it to your business. This will take one to two weeks. During this time your certified applicator, with at least one year of experience, can train the technician. Be sure to include in your training program the following areas:

- ◆ Pest identification
- ◆ Pesticide labels and proper use
- ◆ Application equipment
- ◆ Calibration of equipment
- ◆ Equipment maintenance
- ◆ Personal protective clothing/equipment

- ◆ Respiratory equipment
- ◆ Human health effects
- ◆ Environmental effects
- ◆ Transportation and spill handling
- ◆ Proper disposal procedures
- ◆ State and federal laws and regulations

Remember to keep copies of all training materials and records of the training!

If you are looking for educational materials, the Penn State Pesticide Education Program's web site at <http://www.pested.psu.edu/> has fact sheets and other useful information on-line or contact your local county extension office.

When you receive the technician application, complete it with your employee as you finish each segment of the training. Remember training is a minimum of 30 days. When the training is completed, return the signed application with the fee of twenty dollars, and the PDA will issue the registration and mail it to your business.

Please keep in mind that **technicians may only make applications using the pesticides, techniques, and equipment that was included in their training.**

Applications must be made under the control of the certified applicator who is responsible for their actions, and is available when needed (within 5 hours). Registered technicians may not be transferred to other businesses or branches without being reregistered and retrained at the new location. Registrations expire February 28th of each year.

Written by: Dave Scott, Pesticide Certification and Education Specialist, PA Department of Agriculture

Swimming Pool Law Changed

Regulations that went into effect in December 1995 require certification of all persons who use pesticides (chlorine, bromine, etc.) in the care and maintenance of swimming pools or at water recreational facilities associated with public and private parks. The exemptions to this rule were rivers, lakes, ponds, and residential single-family pools maintained by their owners.

In June of last year, Governor Ridge signed into law The Public Bathing Law—Amended Lifeguard and Pool Pesticide Act of 1998, (Act 75). The pesticides provisions of this act affected only one area of the existing regulation.

This new law removed the need for certification of any individual(s) who apply pesticides to single family residential pools.

The existing provisions of the regulations remain in effect requiring certification for individuals applying pesticides to pools located at: public and private parks, hotels, motels, campgrounds, schools, condominium associations, apartment complexes, swim clubs, and so forth. If you have any questions as to whether your business was exempted by Act 75, please contact your regional PA Department of Agriculture office.

What Does the Food Quality Protection Act Mean For You?

The Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) has been in place for over two years now. In that time, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been working very hard to implement this law. They have the enormous task of reviewing over 9,700 existing tolerances (maximum legally permissible levels of pesticide residue allowed in or on raw agricultural produce and processed foods) by the year 2006. The EPA will give priority to the pesticides that pose the greatest risk to public health: organophosphates, carbamates, and probable human carcinogens (B-1 and B-2 pesticides).

Is this law going to affect you and if so, how can you provide input into the process?

The New Risk Management Process

The FQPA changes the EPA's risk assessment process. The new process may decrease the number of pesticide choices available to treat pests, which in turn may

affect your ability to control some pests. In the past, the EPA examined each pesticide separately, one crop or one use at a time. However, the new risk management process is more stringent and more complex and has three distinct aspects. First, the EPA will consider the aggregate human exposure to pesticides through all possible sources. Aggregate exposure includes any pesticide exposure through the diet as well as exposure through non-dietary sources, such as drinking water; home, garden, and recreational use; and pet care.

Examining *groups* of pesticides based on a common mechanism of toxicity or common mode of action is a second aspect of EPA's new risk management process. This means that pesticides that act in a similar way in the human body will be considered together as a group. For example, the risk assessment will not just consider Pesticide #1, but will consider Pesticide #1, Pesticide #2, and Pesticide #3 together since they have a common mode of action. The last aspect of the risk management process concerns a safety factor for infants and children. As was done previously, EPA continues using the 100X safety factor to ensure that any detectable pesticide residue is safe for adults. Now, the FQPA requires the EPA to add an additional 10X safety factor to ensure a safe risk level for infants and children. However, this additional 10X safety factor can be reduced or removed if available data indicates that this factor is not necessary to protect infants and children.

The Risk Cup

The EPA uses a "risk cup" concept to help explain how tolerances will be reassessed. Suppose you have a cup, which can only hold a finite amount of material. Under the

FQPA, the risk cup will contain the aggregate exposures of all the pesticides with a common mode of action. Under the old process of setting tolerances, risk cups were not used since each pesticide and its dietary exposure were considered independently. To address the special sensitivity of infants and children, the size of the risk cup will be reduced tenfold. In other words, the size of the risk cup will become one-tenth the size used for adults, unless the EPA has data indicating that it can be reduced or removed. Under this scenario, the risk cup becomes crowded and may even overflow.

When the Risk Cup Overflows

The risk cup overflows when there are too many different pesticide residues to fit in the cup. When this happens, the exposures or risks must be reduced to an acceptable level. This can be done in two ways. One is to remove some, or all, of the pesticide compounds entirely from the market. The

second way to reduce the risk to an acceptable level is to restrict or delete one or more uses of at least one specific pesticide in the *group* of pesticides being considered. For example, most if not all of the organophosphates will have to fit into the same risk cup since these compounds have a similar mode of action, and many agree that the organophosphate risk cup will be overflowing. Some organophosphate compounds may be eliminated, while for other organophosphate compounds certain uses may be discontinued. For these reasons, your pest control choices may be reduced, and the new law may affect your ability to control some pests.

What Can You Do?

Although the FQPA will change the way we manage pests, you can still become a part of the process. First, you need information on how the FQPA could affect you. Many information sources are available from pesticide education programs, pesticide impact assessment programs, and IPM programs at land-grant universities; state and federal government agencies; and chemical manufacturers, trade associations, and commodity groups. Second, you need to provide as much information as you can to the people who make decisions and those who will influence them. Here are some examples: complete national and state Agricultural Statistics Service surveys and university surveys; cooperate with or take an active role in trade associations and commodity groups; and contact your state and federal legislative representatives.

Written by: Sharon Gripp, Publications Specialist, and Bill Hoffman, Senior Extension Associate, Pesticide Education Program

The new risk management process may decrease the number of pesticide choices available to treat pests, which, in turn, may affect your ability to control some pests.

Contacting Your Regional PA Department of Agriculture Office

Region #	Counties Included	Address, Telephone, & FAX
I	Clarion, Crawford*, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and Warren	13410 Dunham Road Meadville, PA 16335-8346 (814) 332-6890 FAX (814) 333-1431
II	Cameron, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming*, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, and Union	542 County Farm Road, Suite #102 Montoursville, PA 17754-9685 (570) 433-2640 FAX (570) 433-4770
III	Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming*	Route 92 South, P.O. Box C Tunkhannock, PA 18657-0318 (570) 836-2181 FAX (570) 836-6266
IV	Allegheny*, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland	5349 William Flynn Highway Gibsonia, PA 15044-9644 (724) 443-1585 FAX (724) 443-8150
V	Bedford, Blair*, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Mifflin, and Somerset	1307 7 th St., Cricket Field Plaza Altoona, PA 16601-4701 (814) 946-7315 FAX (814) 946-7354
VI	Adams, Cumberland*, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York	P.O. Box 419 Summerdale, PA 17093-0419 (717) 787-3400 FAX (717) 728-7605
VII	Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery*, Northampton, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill	Route 113, P.O. Box 300 Creamery, PA 19430-0300 (610) 489-1003 FAX (610) 489-6119

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Visit the PA Department of Agriculture's tent
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Ag Progress Days on August 17, 18, and 19
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New Exams, continued from page 1

Plans currently call for the introduction of new study materials for categories: **12**-Wood Destroying Pest Control; **18**-Demonstration and Research; **19**-Wood Preservation; and **23**-Park and School Pest Control on September 1st, with exam phase-in through November 1st.

Dr. Win Hock, Director of Penn State's Pesticide Education Program, who is responsible for the development of the new study materials, stated, "The new reference materials represent major improvements over the old study guides. The new information provides the prospective applicators not only with the necessary study information, but also with valuable reference resources.

Applicators who are already certified and looking for excellent reference materials should consider these new study materials."

To order new study materials contact Penn State's Department of Distance Education at 1-800-252-3592 or by mail at 207 Mitchell Building, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802-3601 To check on the availability of the new study materials and exam information, go to the PSU Pesticide Education Program web page at: <http://www.pested.psu.edu/examfr.html>
Written by: Dave Scott, Pesticide Certification and Education Specialist, PA Department of Agriculture



Pennsylvania

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For Public/Commercial Pesticide Applicators

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