



Ohio Pesticide Safety Education Program

## PEP-Talk, July, 2014

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### **Fertilizer Certification Signed into Ohio Law**

In June, Governor Kasich signed the Ohio agriculture nutrients law which will require farmers applying fertilizer to 50 acres or more to become certified. This certification is part of a broader initiative developed by a task force convened in 2012 with several Ohio agencies participating. The task force focused on developing recommendations for improving Ohio's waterways while maintaining the integrity of the region's agricultural industry.

Farmers will be certified by attending approved training programs. The required educational program needs to include instruction regarding:

- Time, place, form, amount, handling and application of fertilizer
- Sources of relevant nutrients identified in a comprehensive state nutrient reduction strategy
- Practical and economically feasible best management practices

In addition to the certification, farmers who apply fertilizer to more than 50 acres will be required to keep records for three years on at least the following items:

- Date of application
- Place of application

- Rate of application
- Analysis of fertilizer
- Name of applicator

The details on the length of certification training required and other administrative processes are currently being developed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). OSU Extension, including the Pesticide Safety Education Program, is currently working with ODA to develop certification training for early 2015. Farmers will have until September 30, 2017 to become certified.

A fact sheet about the new law is available from ODA

at: <http://agri.ohio.gov/apps/odaprs/doc/Senate%20Bill%20150%20FAQs.pdf> The new law is Ohio Revised Code 905.321-322 and can be accessed at: <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/905.322> and <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/905.321>

### **Worker Protection Standard Comments Extended Until August 18**

The EPA has extended the comment period for proposed changes to the Worker Protection Standard until August 18. Some of the major changes are increasing worker and handler training requirements for training and early-entry notifications, buffer areas for treatment areas, and barring children under the age of 16 from applying pesticides.

The proposed changes include:

- Increased frequency of mandatory trainings (from once every five years to annually) to inform farm workers about the protections they are afforded under the law, including restrictions on entering pesticide-treated fields and surrounding areas, decontamination supplies, access to information and use of personal protective equipment. Expanded trainings will include instructions to reduce take-home exposure from pesticides on work clothing and other safety topics.
- Expanded mandatory posting of no-entry signs for the most hazardous pesticides; the signs prohibit entry into pesticide-treated fields until residues decline to a safe level.
- First time-ever minimum age requirement: Children under 16 will be prohibited from handling pesticides, with an exemption for family farms.
- No-entry buffer areas surrounding pesticide-treated fields will protect workers and others from exposure from pesticide overspray and fumes.
- Measures to improve the states' ability to enforce compliance including requiring employers to keep records of application-specific pesticide information as well as farmworker training and early-entry notification for two years.
- Respirators used as personal protection equipment must be consistent with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration standards for ensuring respirators are providing protection, including fit test, medical evaluation, and training.
- Make available to farm workers or their advocates (including medical personnel) information specific to the pesticide application, including the pesticide label and Safety Data Sheets.

- Eliminate central posting of specific pesticide application information and make available upon request by the worker or their representative
- Continues the exemptions for family farms.

More information about the proposed changes and ways to comment are available at <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/proposed/index.html> Information about WPS is available at: <http://pested.osu.edu/wps.html>  
(Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs.)

### **EPA Releases Pollinator Guidance**

EPA has developed a pollinator guidance document as a long-term strategy for scientific assessment of the pesticide risks to bees. The document was developed from a 2012 scientific advisory panel meeting conducted by EPA concerning risk assessment for bees. The 59-page document guidance is available at: <http://www2.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/pollinator-risk-assessment-guidance>

Additionally, EPA has posted data regarding residual toxicity of pesticide products to bees and other pollinators. Residual toxicity describes the reduction of the pesticide toxicity over time. Specifically, the data outlines the time that must elapse after application to achieve 25 % bee mortality. This data provides practical guidance to pesticide users on how long the active ingredients remain toxic to bees after an application. The data is available at: <http://www2.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/information-residue-toxicity-time-growers-and-beekeepers>

(Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, June 20, 2014.)

### **Fatality from Aluminum Phosphide Application**

A Georgia woman was killed and three children taken to the hospital after exposure to aluminum phosphide. The fumigant tablets were applied illegally in the woman's home by a relative to control cockroaches and other pests. The product is labeled for agriculture use only and labeled for areas such as grain bins. The product is restricted-use due to high acute inhalation toxicity of the phosphine gas.

(Source: <http://bainbridgega.com/bnews/bnews.php?Pesticides-Can-be-Lethal-9746> ).

### **Online Course for Airblast Spraying**

A free, online course is available regarding the best practices for operation of airblast sprayers. The lessons were organized by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and focus on efficient and effective use of the sprayer for agricultural use. Chapters also include calibration, nozzle choice, tank mixes, and reducing drift. Contributors include numerous university and industry professionals. The course is available at: <http://sprayers101.ca>

### **Kaminski Joins Ohio PSEP**

Chrissy Kaminski joined the Ohio Pesticide Safety Education Program team in June as program coordinator. Chrissy recently worked as a wetland specialist identifying potential impacts of

development projects to surface water, delineating wetlands, and evaluating streams for a Columbus-based company. She also has experience as a science content editor and worked for McGraw-Hill Education. Chrissy received her M.S. from OSU in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology and a B.S. from University of Dayton in Environmental Biology. She will be involved with commercial applicator programming and recertification conferences. Chrissy can be reached at [kaminski.218@osu.edu](mailto:kaminski.218@osu.edu)

### Upcoming Events

More information about the following events is at: <http://pested.osu.edu>

#### **Pesticide Safety Training – Commercial New Applicators & Trained Servicepersons**

August 27, 2014

September 24, 2014

Core and Trained Serviceperson trainings are held in the morning, and Categories 8, 5, 2c, and 6c in the afternoon. Recertification credit will be available. Visit <http://pested.osu.edu> for more details.

*Taught at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg, Ohio*

#### **Wood-Destroying Insect Inspection Training**

October 8, 2014 - Mandatory training required for applicators becoming licensed in commercial category 12. Recertification credit is available.

*Taught at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg, Ohio*

#### **Pesticide Training Inservice – OSU Extension Educators**

December 16 & 17, 2014 – Ohio 4-H Center, OSU Columbus Campus

#### **2015 Ohio Pesticide Commercial Applicator Recertification Conferences**

January 22, 2015 – Sandusky, Kalahari Conference Center

January 29, 2015 – Dayton Convention Center

February 18, 2015 – Akron, John S. Knight Center

March 11, 2015 – Columbus Convention Center

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