



# PSEP NEWSLETTER

*A RESOURCE FOR MSU PAT COORDINATORS*

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The January 2009 PSEP newsletter will deliver information regarding special registrations on tribal lands, amendments to the qualifications for recertification credits, amendments to the qualifications for initial certification programs, EPA core manual status, worker protection standards (tools), PowerPoint presentation update, accessing PAT funds, and database update. All previous PSEP newsletters are available for your use online at ([MSU PSEP Quarterlies](#)). PAT coordinators should have received their PAT county balance update and access to their complete updated certified applicator lists on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Please contact the MSU PSEP office for any questions related to these articles.

\*\*Keep in mind: The password for documents on

the PSEP website is no longer '*denton*'. It has been changed to '*milestone*' and will remain the password until 2011.

## **Special Registrations of Pesticides on Tribal Lands in Montana**

Growers on tribal lands can now use special registrations including Section 18's and 24c's legally.

Special registrations are useful when a pest problem exists where there is not any pesticide products available for use on the pest. In the past, EPA remained silent as to whether special registrations may pertain to farmers or applicators within tribal boundaries. This resulted in some pest infestations typically controlled illegally (off label) or not at all if a special registration was needed.

A '*Special Registration Use in Indian Country*' pilot program was initiated November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 between EPA and almost all tribal agencies across the United States. This program allows state special registrations to now be available for use legally on tribal lands. This includes all tribes within Montana. This is a 3 year pilot program which may be expanded, modified, or eliminated. Any Montana tribe may request not to participate in this program at any time by contacting EPA.

For more information on this tribal pilot see <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/tribes/pilot-project.htm>.

## **IPM Mandatory at all Initial Certification Events**

Starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, all 6 credit initial certification events will need 1 hour of

integrated pest management to successfully qualify.

PAT coordinators are authorized to certify private applicators in the category of agricultural plant pest control. Historically, this can occur at a 6 credit initial program **without** any training provided on pest management (IPM, thresholds, monitoring, other treatment alternatives, etc...). With overwhelming support at the 2008 PSEP update this needed to change.

As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 the core categories of MSU pesticide education have changed. Not only have we added 'Integrated Pest Management' as a separate category that must be met for initial certification programs, we have also merged 'reading and understanding the pesticide label' with the category of 'pesticide safety'.

One hour of integrated pest management must include:

- types of Pests
- a definition of IPM
- what economic thresholds are,
- why zero tolerance usually doesn't work.
- various management tactics

This hour could either be on its own, or merged with an existing pest management topic. For example: If you are already giving a

presentation on grasshopper management, simply merge this topic with an initial discussion of IPM.

The category of 'Reading and Understanding the Product Label' is still vital and should be included in any initial program. Simply interactively referring to the product label within any pesticide safety presentation should fill these requirements. Any pesticide safety presentation should refer to the label throughout.

See the MSU PSEP website for more details on the category of Integrated Pest Management (<http://www.pesticides.montana.edu/PAT/Coordinators/InitialPrograms.html>).

### **Applying for Recertification Credits: Qualification Update**

There has been overwhelming support for changing the qualifications for recertification credits according to surveys at the 2008 PSEP update.

Previously, a 4, 5, or 6 credit program needed to contain presentations related to the subject areas of pesticide safety, calibration, and/or environmental concerns. Four credits would contain only 1 subject area, 5 credits needed 2 of those subjects,

and a 6 credit program needed all 3.

Many programs in 2008 which were 6 hours in duration included information on other pesticide subject areas (pesticide laws, reading the label, or understanding your license) did not receive a full 6 credits.

This has led to qualifications for recertification credits being changed to the following:

*Up to 3 credits:* 3 hours on any subject related to pesticide education (chemical updates, pesticide safety, calibration, pest management, etc...).

*4 credits:* 4 hours of pesticide education. At least one hour from one of the core categories.

*5 credits:* 5 hours of pesticide education. At least 2 hours from 2 of the core categories.

*6 credits:* 6 hours of pesticide education. At least 3 hours from 3 of the core categories.

Core Categories Include:

- Your Applicator License
- Pesticide Safety
- Calibration
- Environmental Concerns
- Pesticide Laws
- Integrated Pest Management

For more details regarding these changes see the MSU PSEP website at <http://www.pesticides.montana.edu/PAT/Recertification.html>.

*\*An IPM presentation is now available on the MSU pesticide website for your use.*

### **New PowerPoint Presentations for your Pesticide Education Program**

Your pesticide education program may benefit by the many new PowerPoint presentations made available. Some have been edited and improved, others are completely new. There are many completely new presentations including:

*Using the EPA Core Manual.* We are moving to the EPA Core Manual on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. This may cause applicator and agent frustration due to its length of over 238 pages. This short presentation can be used to defuse some of the anxiety. It is designed to be used at any initial training program as a guide to how to use the manual at home, for testing, or as a desk reference. This 15 minute presentation should relieve test anxiety while giving applicators an understanding of how to use this as a reference guide.

*Pest Management.* Integrated Pest Management is a new subject which is mandatory at all initial training programs and is also another category in which you can meet recertification credit requirements. This PowerPoint presentation was designed to assist agents when teaching this topic. It may be used alone or modified to meet your needs. It covers the definition of IPM, types of pests, economic thresholds, economic injury levels, monitoring techniques, pest management techniques, IPM, and a sample scenario. This may be merged with other pest management presentations to only cover critical needs (types of pests, IPM definition, thresholds, and monitoring).

There are also many modified / improved presentations including:

*Understanding your Private Applicator License.* All initial certification programs should have a section on understanding your private applicator license. This presentation was previously available on the PSEP website, but with many deficiencies. It has now been improved to include an updated certification cycle map, more definition on who needs a private applicator license, more on how you become recertified, your responsibilities, updated

certification cycles, and the MSU pesticide website. This potentially can be merged with the presentation on 'Using the EPA Core Manual' to better prepare your applicators for training.

*Pesticide Safety.* The presentation 'Pesticide Safety for the Veteran Applicator' has received many positive comments from audiences statewide. I believe this is partly due to its different perspective, but also it's use of many pictures. Pictures are beneficial but can be difficult to interpret for other educators trying to teach using this presentation. Due to this, notes were needed. These notes will allow PAT coordinators to use this presentation and know exactly how it was intended to be delivered.

This presentation takes into account the different perspectives between new applicators and veteran applicators and the process that takes place after one becomes certified. Short cuts, outside influences, and events that are not contained within a pesticide training manual are just a few of the items this presentation covers.

*Environmental Concerns.* The understanding of environmental concerns is critical to any pesticide education program. This presentation has been

improved to not only include notes, but also contains much more information. This presentation now includes more information on: 1) pesticide characteristics, 2) environmental characteristics, and 3) soil characteristics, which govern how a pesticide will behave in the environment. This presentation also contains details on what to do in the event of a spill and a Montana update. The notes are critical when presenting this subject and are also readily available.

All presentations can be accessed on the MSU PSEP website at <http://www.pesticides.montana.edu/Present/index.html>. You can download your presentation in either adobe or PowerPoint depending on your program needs.

### **EPA Core Manual is Now Available**

The EPA Core manual will be mandatory for use in all initial certification programs by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. I recommend that all local Extension offices be familiar with this manual and have some in stock prior to this date. They are now available from MSU distribution at the price of only \$7 a copy. I have made a special request to distribution and Extension to allow direct access to PAT funds when purchasing these

manuals. This was approved. Agents can now directly charge their accounts when purchasing manuals. Simply inform distribution of the number of manuals you are ordering and your wish to charge this to your local PAT account. You will **not** need to fill out a 'Purchase Justification Form' when purchasing manuals.

Keep in mind that we are still using the Montana Pesticide Manuals until 2010. These Montana manuals will need to be purchased from Peggy Kelley ([kelly@montana.edu](mailto:kelly@montana.edu); 406-994-3415) at \$7 a copy.

An addendum to the EPA Core Manual will be created by the MSU PSEP and MDA pesticide programs prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. This short reference will include Montana specific laws, certification cycles, and license information.

EPA Core Manuals may be ordered at 406-994-3273 or by email at [orderpubs@montana.edu](mailto:orderpubs@montana.edu).

### **Accessing PAT County Funds**

Accessing PAT county funds can be a frustrating process that takes time, and often causes agents to revert to other accounts to pay for pesticide program needs. This can cause ones account to either give an agent

headaches each time they use it, or rise to a level (over \$3,000) at which it is a shame not to use. By not using these accounts it gives rise to the argument that these funds are not needed. This is not the message that we should be sending! The need for an easier process for accessing PAT funds is needed.

*Current Process.* Anyone wishing to access funds needs to download the 'Purchase Justification Form'. This will need to be signed by yourself and your regional Extension director prior to being sent to the Budget Fiscal Director (Sandy Rahn Gibson; [sandyrg@montana.edu](mailto:sandyrg@montana.edu); 406-994-1792) for further signatures. She will pre-approve all funds prior to your purchases. Purchase receipts should then be sent to Sandy Rahn Gibson with a short description of how you wish this to be reimbursed. See the complete instructions online on the MSU PSEP website ([Accessing PAT Funds](#)).

*What Qualifies for PAT funds?* According to the 2008 Memorandum of Agreement MDA will distribute 10% of any private applicator license fee to Extension for transfer to the county in which the private applicator resides. According to the agreement this is to be used to support the development of

educational materials for private applicators.

MSU PSEP further defines the statement of “supporting the development of educational materials” as:

- Developing any CD’s, brochures, or handouts which are related to educating your applicators.
- Bring in speakers whom speak within 1 of the 6 pesticide education categories (including pest management).
- training hardware including laptops or projectors (however it must be stated what percentage of time will be spent using for pesticide education)
- reserving conference or program rooms
- Supporting lunches, coffee, or snacks.

This loose interpretation of supporting the development of education materials is meant to enhance the use of PAT county funds. It is recognized that this interpretation still enhances the program impact for private applicators. The abuse of using PAT county funds for only purchasing office materials in whole is

closely monitored. That is why an agent wishing to purchase office equipment needs to state what percentage of time he / she plan on spending this equipment for pesticide education. PAT funds can be used to purchase equipment for that fraction of time (example: cost \$1,000→use 25% for PAT→PAT funds will cover \$250).

*Change is needed.* The current process will be reviewed at the PSEP Annual Committee meeting this winter. Send any concerns or comments relating to this to myself ([ctharp@montana.edu](mailto:ctharp@montana.edu)) or your regional PAT advisory panel member.

Region 1: John Halpop  
Region 2: Toby Day  
Region 3: Dan Picard  
Region 4: Kent Williams  
Region 5: Darren Crawford  
Tribal: Rene Kittle

#### **MDA Tools Available for Worker Protection Standards**

As a PAT coordinator we are often responsible for training private applicators as to their responsibilities pertaining to Worker Protection Standards. All private applicators who have non-family members who work on their farm operation need to understand their responsibilities related to Worker Protection Standards.

This includes:

1. Information at a Central Location
2. Pesticide Safety Training
3. Decontamination Sites
4. Employer Information Exchange
5. Emergency Assistance

Pesticide Safety Training is actually much more than an informal process. It is mandatory that all workers and handlers be trained by a certified applicator as required by the US EPA (See the EPA publication, WPS – How to Comply). Any private applicator is qualified to deliver this training. Applicators will need the EPA ‘How to Comply with the Worker Protection Standards’ manual and possibly the ‘How to Comply’ CD. These are available for free in bulk from the EPA at 1-703-305-7666 or 1-888-663-2155 for your distribution to interested applicators.

An MDA training form must be filled out after the training. This form will require that a trainer verify all subject training areas were covered. This must be sent to MDA after training is complete. MDA will send each trained worker or handler a WPS certification card. Forms

which trainers must fill out for each worker and handler are available online.

- Worker Training Form ([Worker Form](#))
- Pesticide Handler Training Form ([Handler Form](#))

For more information on worker protection standards contact myself ([ctharp@montana.edu](mailto:ctharp@montana.edu)), MDA (Janet Kirkland, [jakirkland@mt.gov](mailto:jakirkland@mt.gov)), or see the MDA Worker Protection Standards website at <http://agr.mt.gov/pestfert/workerProtection.asp>.

### Database Update

MDA and MSU PSEP have been working together on the new online private applicator database. It looks as if we will be moving to the online private applicator database within months. That means that you will not need to use the pesky PERKS program anymore. MDA has provided the funds and technical support to achieve this, while MSU PSEP is providing direction as to PAT coordinator needs. We will keep you updated as we progress with this.

### Submittals to the Montana Pesticide Bulletin or PSEP newsletters.

Please forward any pesticide safety education stories/news/information that you would like to share with Montana private applicators or other Montana PAT coordinators to [ctharp@montana.edu](mailto:ctharp@montana.edu). Your story will be included in the next edition of the Montana Pesticide Bulletin (for private applicators) or PSEP quarterly (for local PAT coordinators only).

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