



Texas
Cooperative
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The Texas A&M
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CHEMOGRAM

Agricultural & Environmental Safety unit – <http://agensafety.tamu.edu/>

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New Private Applicator Training DVDs on the Way

Dr. Don Renchie

In the next few days, County Extension Agents (CEAs) Ag statewide should be receiving a new Private Applicator Training program consisting of 2 DVDs. Thanks to assistance from the Texas Department of Agriculture, we have put the entire training program onto these 2 DVDs for your convenience and use. They can be used alone or integrated into an interactive program in which the agent teaches a portion of the class.

The program can be used for group or individual training activities. However, **by no means are they allowed to be taken home and viewed.**

The need for deciding whether to use the slide set or the VHS is no longer an issue. If any agent would prefer to have the program on VHS, contact our office and we will forward one promptly.

We still need to use the teachers guide, work sheets and manuals to conduct the programs. Remember to order the study materials and distribute them in advance of the activity. **The manuals are \$10.00 to CEAs** and are to be **sold to the participants for \$20.00.** The \$10.00 difference is to be used for seeding/sustaining your applicator training activities in your respective counties (such as purchasing a DVD player).

We appreciate the efforts each of you put into conducting high quality Pesticide Safety Education Programs (PSEP) for your customers. As most of us are aware, these high visibility programs often bring in some of our newer customers (absentee and small acreage landowners) thereby allowing us to build greater support among non-traditional audiences.

Therefore, I am pleased to be a part of a team like ours. If we can assist you in any way, contact us at your convenience.

EPA Issues Final Reminder of "Stop Sale" Date for Diazinon

Dr. Mary Ketchersid

An organophosphate pesticide, diazinon has been one of the most widely used insecticides in the United States for household lawn and garden pest control, as well as for indoor residential treatments. All **indoor** use product registrations have been canceled, and retail sale of these products ended on Dec. 31, 2002.

EPA is issuing a final reminder notice to pesticide retailers that the stop-sale date for **ALL outdoor** diazinon home, lawn and garden products is Dec. 31, 2004. After that date, it will be unlawful to sell diazinon outdoor non-agricultural use products in the United States. This provision is part of an agreement between EPA and diazinon registrants to phase out and eliminate virtually all residential uses of the insecticide.

Discontinuing diazinon use in home, lawn and garden care is part of EPA's ongoing effort under the **1996 Food Quality Protection Act** to reduce the risk of pesticides, especially to children.

After Dec. 31, 2004, diazinon registrants are offering a "buy back" program to assist with removing these products from the market and preventing further sale. The registrants will repurchase any unopened, unused outdoor residential products from retailers or formulators.

As of Jan. 1, 2005, retailers should remove **all** diazinon outdoor home, lawn and garden products from store shelves and store them safely until

these products can be sold back to the manufacturers or disposed of properly.

Consumers may continue to use diazinon residential products according to label directions and precautions. If consumers choose to discontinue use, they should contact their state or local hazardous waste disposal program or local solid waste collection service for information on proper disposal. Consumers are advised not to dispose of pesticides in sinks, toilets, storm drains, or any body of water. The local government may recommend that consumers take diazinon products to a household hazardous waste collection site.

Information on the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection Program can be found at: <http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/exec/oppr/agwaste/agwaste.html> . Texas Country Cleanup and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events can be found on the TCEQ Calendar found at: <http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/admin/calendar/events.html> by selecting the month of interest.

Copies of the "Diazinon Notice to Retailers" are available through the "National Service Center for Environmental Publications" at 1-800-490-9198. Also, more information on diazinon is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/diazinon.htm>

Avoid Making Off Label Pesticide Recommendations - Check the Label First
Dr. Don Renchie

Recently I was contacted by Texas Department of Agriculture officials and informed that during several pesticide misuse investigations TCE CEAs had been implicated as the source of recommendations for the illegal application of pesticides. It is critically important that we avoid advising producers to use any pesticide on a site or pest (ex. cattle for horn flies, crops [cotton for damping off], locations [dairy loafing barns for ticks]) that is not on the label.

While Section 2ee of the FIFRA allows for use on pest not on the label (as long as the site is

listed), under current Texas law only the pesticide manufacturer can make the claim. In order to do so, they must submit the proposed label to TDA for review. During the review process TDA personnel may determine additional efficacy data is required or that the use is unacceptable.

Our specialists' are constantly conducting trials to determine the efficacy of new products. While their data may demonstrate efficacy in many situations, until the manufacturer amends their label to add the site and/or pest, or they petition TDA for a section 2ee, we are prohibited from making any unsanctioned/unlabeled pesticide recommendations.

Please be aware that under Texas pesticide laws and regulations, you can be held liable for "causing a pesticide to be used in a manner inconsistent with it's label". The penalties can range from a notice of non-compliance to a monetary fine. Also, if a crop or livestock are damaged, injured or killed because of an illegal recommendation, you can be held liable in civil court for restitution.

While TCE administrators encourage us to provide the best service we can for our customers, they are equally concerned that we do not get into grey areas of the law while trying to provide assistance. If you are not sure about the use status of a particular pesticide, contact a subject matter specialist or contact me!

Our ability to be the primary source for accurate information relating to agricultural, structural, public health and urban pest control depends on each of us adhering to a strict protocol when making pesticide recommendations.

If you are not sure, advise the customer that you will look into their question further and get back to them in a timely manner with an appropriate answer. We can quickly provide information about a pesticides status (registration status, sites, pests . . .) by checking with TDA or EPA.

CEU Presentations - Appropriate Content and Time Requirements
Dr. Mary Ketchersid

Please remember that CEUs given for Pesticide Applicator recertification must contain content appropriate for pesticide applicator education. Topics on nutrition, or animal breeding, or soil fertility are not acceptable unless the title clearly shows that there is a relation to pest response or activity or pesticide efficacy.

Programs with more than 3 hours of CEUs offered must be pre-approved by TDA. Requests for approval must be made 30 days prior to the program. TDA has a Recertification Sponsorship Form (Q835) available on their web site at: <http://www.agr.state.tx.us/forms/index.htm>.

See the section below from the Texas Laws and Regs related to Applicator Recertification.

(from TDA Regulations) Texas Administrative Code

TITLE 4 - - - AGRICULTURE
PART 1 - - - TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CHAPTER 7 - - - PESTICIDES
SUBCHAPTER C - - - LICENSING

RULE §7.24 Applicator Recertification (in part)

(a) All applicators must meet recertification requirements through completion of approved continuing education activities.

(b) Approved activities may include lectures, panel discussions, organized video or film with live instruction, field demonstrations, or other activities approved by the department.

(c) Each activity must be approved by the department. No activity may claim to be approved or accepted by the department or use any other such term that would lead an applicator to believe that it has been approved by the department for recertification unless it is so approved.

(d) The department shall assign no more than one continuing education unit (CEU) for each hour of net actual instruction time presented at an approved activity. (A&ES note: It is also true that in order for 1 hour of CEU credit to be

assigned there must be 1 full hour of instruction time)

(e) To be eligible for approval, the department will require:

(1) that the activity have significant educational or practical content to maintain appropriate levels of competency;

(2) that the activity be conducted by a university, a governmental agency, an association, or a private independent nonapplicator business;

(3) that each activity has a recordkeeping procedure for verifying applicator attendance using department forms or approved formats;

(4) that activities cover one or more of the following topics pertaining to pesticides:

(A) label and labeling comprehension;

(B) safety factors;

(C) environmental consequences;

(D) pest features;

(E) integrated pest management strategies/pest management practices;

(F) pesticide factors;

(G) equipment characteristics;

(H) application techniques/drift minimization;

(I) laws and regulations;

(J) biotechnology/transgenic crops; or

(K) business ethics;

Scheduling CEU Speakers

Dr. Mary Ketchersid

County Agents please help the Specialists that you have invited to participate in CEU programs by sending them a copy of the Program at least a month ahead of time and by providing clear directions on where the program will be and how to get there. Many requests to speak come in with so little information that they don't get put on the calendar and then days before the event someone calls to say the specialist is expected and he may already be scheduled somewhere else. Also, a physical address is always helpful when using a mapping program to locate the site. Lastly, an e-mail or phone call a few days before the event is most helpful.

Last Chance Videos Need New 2005 Approval Numbers

Mary Ketchersid

A request to renew **The Last Chance Video Series** for 2005 has been sent to TDA. **Be on the look-out for new course numbers.** These will be sent to you as soon as they are received from TDA.

TDA assigns new Course Numbers each year. Old 2004 TDA course numbers will NOT be accepted in 2005. If agents are using a Last Chance Video tape and if you are using the TDA Course number for it, then you must use the 2005 TDA course number after January 1, 2005. You do not need to use this number if you use the video as a part of your own 3 hour program - if it is a part of your allowable daily 3 hours you can just include it under your TDA Course Number. You can use your three hours and then add these on for a total of 5 or 7 or 8, etc. If you use the TDA Course Number, you will need a separate roster to document attendance for each video. If you use the TDA course number, then the TDA course number must be on the Completion Certificate for each video used. Each tape is listed below with the Extension A-V Catalog number.

These videos can be checked out by Extension educators only for use in County programs or in the office in a monitored setting. These videos may **NOT** be sent home with individuals for independent study. To check out A-V materials from the library find the Extension Resource Center on the web at < <http://agpublications.tamu.edu/> > and select "Audio-Visual Library" or go directly to < <http://av-library.tamu.edu/> > or contact Edna Eisfeldt at < e-eisfeldt@tamu.edu > to make an order.

TAPE I - LAWS & REGULATIONS

CEUs in L&R 1.5, General 0.5 - - TCE A-V Catalog number - VHS-2541

TAPE II - INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT
CEUs in IPM 2.0 - - TCE A-V Catalog number - VHS-2542

TAPE III - DRIFT MINIMIZATION

CEUs in Drift 1.5, General 0.5 - - TCE A-V Catalog number - VHS-2543

TAPE IV - SAFETY

CEUs in General 2.0 - - TCE A-V Catalog number - VHS-2544

CD - All About Pesticide Applicator Certification
CEUs in Laws & Regs 1.0 - - TCE A-V Catalog number - CD-5

Asian Soybean Rust

Mark Matocha

The national emergency produced by the identification of Asian soybean rust into many soybean producing states has many in regulatory agencies and crop protection businesses scrambling for effective controls. Asian soybean rust can wipe out crops in whole regions and is one of the most significant diseases of soybeans worldwide.

The north central IPM center has a very informative website providing information on soybean rust and can be found at ["http://ncipm.org/soybeanrust/index.html"](http://ncipm.org/soybeanrust/index.html) MACROBUTTONHtmlResAnchor<http://ncipm.org/soybeanrust/index.html>

BASF launched <http://soybeanrustinfo.com> earlier this year to provide objective, third-party information about every aspect of this disease. Submit a question to the "Ask the Expert" page and receive a response by e-mail. Or check "Grower Voices" to learn what others are saying about Asian soybean rust.

There is also a file of slides and a script on Asian Soybean Rust developed by Iowa State University (see e-mail attachment) . This slide script file on "Asian Soybean Rust" was developed by Kristine Schaefer, Extension Program Specialist, Department of Agronomy at Iowa State University (contact information: schaefer@iastate.edu or (515) 294-6122). This presentation provides an overview of the disease Asian Soybean Rust including background information, symptoms and identification characteristics and where to find additional information. It has wording specific for Iowa that could be modified to fit Texas.

HAVE A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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*Dr. Don Renchie
Program Leader
101 Agronomy Field Lab
2488 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-2488
979-845-3849; fax 979-845-6251*