

Making a Difference

2017 Pesticide Applicator Programming in Wharton County

Developed by:
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Relevance

For year 2017 Wharton County, Texas has 605 pesticide applicators licensed with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Private Pesticide Applicators are required to obtain fifteen (15) CEUs (continued education credits) every five years in order to renew their license. Commercial and Non-Commercial Applicators are required to obtain 5 CEUs every year in order to renew their license. There is a substantial audience and a need for Extension to provide the educational opportunities for these applicators to obtain their CEU credits. In addition, new applicators seek opportunities throughout the year to take the certification course at the Wharton County Extension Office to obtain their license.

Response

The Wharton County Row Crops Committee provided for one (1) individual course in 2016 that offered five (5) CEUs. The committee planned and conducted this event based on client need and evaluation results from the 2016 Conference. This 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference is scheduled each year at the Wharton County Youth Fairgrounds in Crescent. CEUs were also awarded at the following seminars and workshops scheduled throughout the year: January 18, 2017 Western Rice Belt Conference; January 19, 2017 Grain Handlers Conference; January 26, 2017 Upper Gulf Coast Feed Grain and Cotton Conference February 2, 2017 5-CEU Conference; April 18, 2017 Ag Symposium; May 10, 2017 Ag Marketing Meeting; and at seed meetings and/or field days for Matagorda County SWCD, AgriSolutions, Bayer Crop Science®, Monsanto®, DowAgroSciences®, Pioneer Seed®/Kresta Farms, and Krenek Seed Company. CEU credits are also made available to pesticide applicators by viewing a series of Last Chance CEU videos at the Wharton County Extension Office.

The mandatory Certification Training for potential pesticide applicators to obtain their pesticide applicator license was provided by the Wharton County Extension Office throughout the year on an as-needed basis or when requested.

Ag Science Teachers located throughout Texas is another audience of Pesticide License holders that County Extension Agent, Corrie Bowen assists during the year at the annual Vocational Ag Teachers Association of Texas (VATAT) Annual Conference. Since 2005 Agent Bowen has facilitated a Pesticide Applicator Certification Workshop and a Pesticide Applicator Recertification Workshop at the VATAT annual conference. Ag Science teachers must also acquire their required recertification credits, but they often have difficulty attending the recertification course while they are teaching in the classroom. Offering CEUs at

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

their annual conference helps teachers acquire their needed recertification credits. 2017 marked Agent Bowen's 13th consecutive year cooperating with the VATAT, providing and facilitating their annual pesticide workshops.

Results

February 2, 2017 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference

Twenty (20) new applicators attended the Private Pesticide Applicator training and testing sessions offered at the Wharton County Extension Office in the year 2017.

For year 2017 Wharton County awarded a total of **35.0 CEUs** at group meetings to a total of **963** individuals. In addition to CEUs obtained at group meetings, a total of thirty (**30**) licensed Pesticide Applicators obtained a total of **30** hours of CEU credits by viewing our Last Chance CEU videos at the Wharton County Extension Office.

A retrospective-post evaluation instrument was conducted on the day of the 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference. **67 of 127 (52.8%)** completed the evaluation instrument. Participants reported 99,503 acres managed, and a total anticipated economic benefit to their operations of \$578,107, or \$5.81 per acre.

Client Change Level of Understanding: February 2, 2017 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference

TOPICS	Mean Value BEFORE	Mean Value AFTER	Percent Increase
Recent changes by the EPA to pesticide certification and training regulations	1.86	3.44	52.7%
Soil temperature requirements for effective control of macartney rose	1.95	3.25	43.3%

July 24, 2017 VATAT Pesticide Workshops at Arlington, Texas

Thirty-four (34) Ag Science Teachers attended the TDA Pesticide Applicator Certification Workshop in Arlington, Texas. These 34 Ag Teachers left the workshop prepared to take their Private Pesticide Applicator Exam. Another Forty-two (42) Ag Science Teachers attended the TDA Pesticide Recertification Workshop in Arlington, Texas. **38 of 42 (90.5%)** completed evaluations for the Pesticide Recertification Workshop. Participants reported 1,315 acres, or 315 head of cattle managed. Participants report a total anticipated economic benefit to their operations of \$11.64 per head of cattle.

Client Change Level of Understanding: July 24, 2017 VATAT Pesticide Workshops

TOPICS	Mean Value BEFORE	Mean Value AFTER	Percent Increase
Recent changes to texas pesticide laws and regulations and EPA worker protection standards (WPS)	1.94	3.14	40%
Recent research from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension regarding the control of invasive weed and brush.	2.11	3.25	38%
The school IPM program in Texas	2.31	3.33	34%