

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

### 2019 Pesticide Applicator Programming in Wharton County

**Developed by:**

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#### Relevance

For the year 2019 Wharton County, Texas has **586** (compared to 592 in 2018) 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. The Wharton County Row Crops Committee and Western Rice Belt Production Conference Committee identify Continued Education Units (CEUs) as a priority of program planning for Wharton County.

#### Response

The Wharton County Row Crops Committee provided for one (1) individual course in 2019 that offered five (5) CEUs. The committee planned, promoted, and conducted this event based on client need and evaluation results from the 2018 Conference. This 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference is scheduled each year at the Wharton County Youth Fairgrounds in Crescent, TX. CEUs were also awarded at the following seminars and workshops scheduled throughout the year: January 16, 2019 Western Rice Belt Conference; January 17, 2019 Grain Handlers Conference; January 24, 2019 Upper Gulf Coast Feed Grain and Cotton Conference ;February 5, 2019 5-CEU Conference; February/March 2019 Auxin Specific Applicator Training; April 16, 2018 Ag Symposium; April 17, 2019 Wheat Field Day; July 10, 2019 Wharton County Cotton/Soybean Turn Row Meeting; and at seed meetings and/or field days for: BASF®, 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. Agent Bowen accommodated a group of seven (7) employees of Cal-Maine Poultry farm in Lane City, TX for an on-site Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Training, July 25, 2019

Ag Science Teachers located throughout Texas is another audience of licensed pesticide applicators that County Extension Agent, Corrie Bowen educates. Since 2005 Agent Bowen has facilitated a Pesticide Applicator Certification Workshop and a Pesticide Applicator Recertification Workshop at the Vocational Ag Teachers Association of Texas (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 their annual conference helps teachers acquire their needed recertification credits. 2019 marked Agent Bowen's 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year cooperating with the VATAT Board of Directors, providing and facilitating their annual pesticide workshops.

## Results

Twenty-four (**24**) new applicators attended the Private Pesticide Applicator training and testing sessions offered at the Wharton County Extension Office in the year 2019.

For year 2019 Wharton County awarded a total of **30.0 CEUs** at group meetings to a total of **939** individuals. In addition to CEUs obtained at group meetings, a total of five (**5**) licensed Pesticide Applicators obtained a total of **20** hours of CEU credits by viewing our Last Chance CEU videos at the Wharton County Extension Office.

### February 5, 2019 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference

A retrospective-post evaluation instrument was conducted on the day of the 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference. **66 of 104 (63.4%)** completed the evaluation instrument. Participants reported 72,569 acres managed, and a total anticipated economic benefit to their operations of **\$299,420** or **\$4.13** per acre.

### **Client Change Level of Understanding: February 1, 2018 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference**

<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>Mean Value BEFORE</b>	<b>Mean Value AFTER</b>	<b>Percent Increase</b>
Inversions likely occur when winds are less than 3 mph, clear skies overnight, sunset to sunrise	2.38	3.47	36.3%
The direct supervision affidavit required between licensed and unlicensed pesticide applicators	2.16	3.49	44.3%
Laws that apply to the movement of feral hogs in TX.	2.26	3.60	44.7%
Right-of-way vegetation management along Texas roadways	1.87	3.53	55.3%
Regulations applicable to the movement and transportation of farm equipment and chemicals in TX	2.08	3.66	52.7%

### July 29, 2019 VATAT Pesticide Workshops at Corpus Christi, Texas

Thirty (30) Ag Science Teachers attended the TDA Pesticide Applicator Certification Workshop in Corpus Christi, Texas. These 30 Ag Teachers left the workshop prepared to take their Private Pesticide Applicator Exam. Another thirty-four (34) Ag Science Teachers attended the TDA Pesticide Recertification Workshop in Corpus Christi, Texas, which focused on greenhouse pest control. Ag Teachers reflected in their 2018 surveys a need for more education on greenhouse pest control. **21 of 34 (61.8%)** completed evaluations for the Pesticide Recertification Workshop. Participants reported a total anticipated economic benefit to their operations of **\$43,285**.

### **Client Change Intentions to Adopt: July 29, 2019 VATAT Pesticide Workshops**

<b>Practice or Technology that Could Be Adopted</b>	<b>Number Who Probably Will Adopt</b>	<b>Number Who Could Adopt</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Rotating group numbers of insecticides by mode of action to avoid building insecticide resistance.	16	20	80%

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