

# IMPACT



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## Training Workshop Prepares Individuals for Pesticide Applicator Exams

### *The Situation*

The State of Idaho requires individuals who wish to buy, recommend, or apply pesticides to possess a pesticide applicator license. This certification is delivered and regulated by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. In order for individuals to obtain a license, they must pass appropriate examinations that test their knowledge and understanding of pesticides. Preparing for the exams is challenging for some. The broad spectrum of required Pesticide Applicator licenses (private or professional categories), limited accessibility to study materials, and questions about interpretations of the materials make it difficult for individuals to successfully pass the required exam on the first testing. Individuals have looked to the University of Idaho Extension offices for assistance in acquiring study materials and instruction to help them succeed.

### *Our Response*

A one-day Pesticide Applicator License Exam Preparation class was developed and delivered in Twin Falls and Shoshone. University of Idaho Extension educators collaborated with Idaho State Department of Agriculture officials to assemble a set of presentations and information to deliver to class participants. Extension educators presented information on labels and safety, recordkeeping requirements, sprayer calibration, general pest control topics, insect control, weed control, and EPA worker protection standards. Different teaching

methods were used including PowerPoint presentations, hands-on activities, and videos. Participants received take-home study materials and an Idaho Pesticide Applicator Training Manual.

The specific target audience was individuals seeking an applicator's license for the first time, or those needing to retake the exam(s) because their license had expired. Recertification credits were not offered at this program to ensure that the target audience was contacted, and they received quality instruction with minimal distractions.

### *Program Outcomes*

The program provided education to 22 people from Twin Falls, Cassia, Lincoln, and Blaine counties. One hundred percent of the participants who were tested after the class passed all of their respective exams. In all, there were 13 exams taken including the private applicator, laws and safety, agriculture herbicide, chemigation, seed treatment, and commodity fumigation.

The certification of these individuals verifies that they understand the federal and state pesticide laws and regulations, and the practices that are necessary for the safe, effective handling of pesticides. Secondly, it illustrates that they have a solid foundation of knowledge to make pest management decisions that will have minimal impact on human safety, health, and the environment.

This program was rated as quite helpful (4.6; 5.0 = very helpful) in assisting participants preparing for their exams. Comments from program evaluations indicated that this program was very helpful, and some felt that they “Probably would not have passed without this help session.” Furthermore, it was suggested that this program should be offered at least once a year.

### **The Future**

Evaluation respondents indicated that this program “ought to be offered at least once a year.” Since there was such a high rate of success along with very positive evaluation feedback, this program will be offered again in the future. Programs are currently being planned for Twin Falls and Blaine counties.

## ***For More Information***

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