

# IMPACT



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## Extension Plays Key Role in Pesticide License Recertification

### *The Situation*

Individuals who apply restricted-use pesticides (RUP) are required by the United States Department of Agriculture to possess a pesticide applicator license. This certification program is administered by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

An Idaho Pesticide License is good for two years and can be renewed by either re-taking the pesticide license exam or submitting to the ISDA that they have obtained the proper number of pesticide recertification credits prior to the expiration of the license. Private license holders must obtain six credits while professional license holders need fifteen to exempt themselves from re-taking the exam.

In order to obtain a sufficient number of credits, pesticide license holders rely upon the University of Idaho Extension, in cooperation with the ISDA, to provide educational and training programs in which pesticide recertification credits will be available.

### *Our Response*

Once a year in December, county extension educators in the Magic Valley host the University of Idaho Pesticide Recertification Seminar in Twin Falls and Burley. This is a six-hour program that offers six pesticide recertification credits to participants. Typical attendees include farmers, custom applicators, consultants, pesticide dealers, and lawn and landscape applicators.

The benefit of the program is that private applicators are able to obtain all the necessary credits for a two-year period in one day. This is beneficial to them during the commodity schools later in the winter since they can attend other topics of interest that may not offer credits.

Prior to the seminar, extension educators in the Magic Valley meet to discuss topics, set an agenda, contact speakers, and schedule meeting sites. Between 2000 and 2002, topics have included pesticide application recordkeeping, high priority noxious weeds, landscape insect control, urban Integrated Pest Management, grain fumigations, fungicide mode of action and management, pesticide contamination and safety, nozzles, weed seed distribution, herbicide families and symptomology, sprayer calibration, integrated weed management, pesticide drift, rodent control, understanding pesticide labels, mosquito control, cereal leaf beetle management, and sugarbeet root maggot control.

### *Program Outcomes*

In Burley, 368 individuals have attended the seminar with 1,962 credits being granted between 2000 and 2002. In Twin Falls, there were 274 individuals who attended the program, and 1,372 credits were handed out in the same three-year period.

In addition to the credits, the seminar has proven to be a useful source of information. Topics on pesticide labels, recordkeeping, and noxious weeds were presented and evaluated in 2000 and 2001. In both years presentation were rated, on average,

above a 4, on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest. Information gained was also assessed in two areas. One hundred percent of participants at the 2002 seminar in Burley said they had a moderate/considerable knowledge of herbicide resistance management after the presentation, up from 65% prior to the presentation. In addition, only 20% of participants stated that they had a considerable knowledge of nozzle selection. This increased to 50% after the seminar.

There has been discussion as to whether or not the recertification workshop is a valuable program and would be attended if credits were not available. Therefore, in the evaluations this question was asked directly and indirectly. In 2000 at both locations, 60% of those surveyed said they would still attend if credits were not available. In 2001, participants stated that the average number of years in attendance was over three. Twin Falls data indicates that over 50% in attendance have attended for 3 of the last 5 years, and 35% have attended 4 of the last 5 years. This is significant since private applicators need only to attend one year to satisfy the recertification requirements for a two-year period. This indicates that participants view this workshop as a valuable source of information.

### ***Cooperators***

University of Idaho Extension  
Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
NORCO, Inc.  
Minidoka County Weed Superintendent  
Cassia County Weed Superintendent  
Twin Falls County Weed Superintendent  
Ag-West Distributing Company, Inc.  
Floyd Lilly Company

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