Pest management programs support local producers and pesticide applicators

The Extension pesticide specialist collaborated with the Canyon County Extension educator to provide the following:

- **Pesticide safety pre-licensing classes.** Since 2009, UI Extension and ISDA have conducted a three-day class for those individuals preparing to take the state pesticide exams. We utilize a traditional classroom style to teach the pesticide safety curriculum. The class lectures compliment the pesticide safety training manuals and allow for student-teacher interaction and one-on-one instruction. The focus of these classes is to teach principles of pesticide stewardship and state examination preparation.

- **Pesticide safety recertification workshops.** We have conducted winter educational programs for licensed pesticide applicators on an annual basis for the past 15 years. These workshops provide licensing recertification credits for both private and professional applicators. These programs help applicators maintain their licenses.

- **Spanish language pesticide safety training for farm workers.** An annual class is delivered to Spanish speakers, entirely in Spanish. The students learn various aspects of pest management and pesticide safety. Additionally, they receive pesticide handler training and obtain a “handler card” when the training is completed.

- **OnePlan online pest management planning, educational and regulatory support programs.** This includes four programs; (1) Pesticide applicator recordkeeping (PAR), (2) Soil fumigant management planner (FMP), (3) U.S. EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and (4) Integrated Pest Management planning and documentation by crop.
and crop stages (IPM). These online tools were
developed to assist producers in complying with state and
federal pesticide requirements.

- PNW Pest Alert Network online and real time pest alert
  program. The website informs growers and allied industry
  about current pest outbreaks in crops from eastern Oregon,
  all across southern Idaho to eastern Idaho.

- Dry bulb onion pest management research. We developed
drip irrigation and insecticide data for best management
practices for onion thrips control.

- IR-4 minor use pesticide registration research. The
University of Idaho field research center conducts magni-
tude of residue trials each year to support new pesticide
registrations for Idaho’s specialty crops. Collaboration with
producers and commodity organizations in the western
states is important for Idaho producers to have new pesti-
cides available that meet global trade requirements.

Program Outcomes
Farmers and professional applicators are more successful on
the state pesticide examinations, with a 30 percent increase in
passing rates. Assuming those who pass the examinations
obtain a pesticide applicator license, we have increased the
number of trained and certified applicators in Canyon Coun-
ty, Idaho. It has been shown that professionally trained pesti-
cide applicators increase stewardship practices and the use of
integrated pest management. The online programs have
increased applicators recordkeeping and compliance in
addition to reducing unnecessary pesticide applications. The
research programs have increased producers’ knowledge of
pesticide impacts to water quality and soil. All of these
practices help to protect human health and environmental
conditions, along with reducing the costs associated with
controlling pests.

The Future
All of these programs will continue to be offered on an
annual basis. Web based programs are available all the time.