

# impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

## Pesticide recertification credits provided in person and via Zoom broadcast

### AT A GLANCE

Acquiring enough pesticide credits for recertification is challenging for pesticide licensees. Eight workshops in eastern Idaho over three days helped more producers receive credits.

### The Situation

Much of Idaho is sparsely populated. Private and professional pesticide applicators are required to obtain six or 15 credits respectively every two years to renew their licenses. Traveling long distances is often required as applicators seek to access trainings where credits are offered. Applicators in remote locations often find it difficult to obtain recertification credits.

### Our Response

University of Idaho Extension educators from nine offices worked cooperatively to offer three-credit workshops in eight locations. Educators traveled to six locations to present in-person workshops in Malad, Preston, Montpelier, Soda Springs, American Falls and Blackfoot. The Soda Springs workshop was also broadcasted live through the online video conferencing service Zoom to Arco and Hailey. There participants watched and interacted with educators presenting in Soda Springs. Grant Loomis and David Callister facilitated Zoom trainings in Hailey and Arco respectively.

Ron Patterson presented on methods of controlling woody vegetation like Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix spp.*). Justin Hatch taught applicators about



Extension Educator Justin Hatch presenting in Power County. Photo credit by Bracken Henderson.

integrated pest management (IPM) in turfgrass, and Terrell Sorensen and Reed Findlay presented about integrated pest management in pastures. Joseph Sagers instructed on proper sprayer calibration and Jacob Rickman trained applicators on pesticide safety and how to avoid accidental contact. Bracken Henderson helped applicators learn more about the European earwig and how it plays both the roles of pest and beneficial predator.

### Program Outcomes

Two key policy changes gave impetus to our response. First, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) changed policies in 2019 to no longer allow licensees to receive recertification credits by attending the same presentation(s) at separate locations. Prior to

this decision, a number of applicators would attend multiple iterations of the same workshop (Example: Attend the Malad workshop in the morning and receive three credits, then sit through the same presentations in Preston in the afternoon for another three credits). Some applicators were disappointed about this policy change and expressed concern that they would be unable to acquire enough credits for recertification.

The second policy change was ISDA’s allowance of credits being received via remote broadcasting. Grant Loomis and David Callister facilitated remote sites to award credit at the conclusion of the Zoom workshop. Remote participants experience was comparable with those in Soda Springs and travel was notably reduced.



Participants in Blaine County participate via Zoom. Photo credit by Grant Loomis.

The result was the availability of continuing education for pesticide recertification credits across eight counties in a three-day period. A total of 146 participants received a cumulative 438 pesticide recertification credits.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Bracken Henderson**, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Franklin County • 208-8521097 • brackenh@uidaho.edu
- Reed Findlay**, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Bingham and Bannock counties • 208-2367310 • rfindlay@uidaho.edu
- Justin Hatch**, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Caribou County • 208-5473205 • jlhatch@uidaho.edu
- Ron Patterson**, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Bonneville County • 208-529-1390 • rpatterson@uidaho.edu
- Jacob Rickman**, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Oneida County • 208-766-2243 • jacobr@uidaho.edu
- Joseph Sagers**, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Jefferson and Clark counties • 208-745-6685 • jsagers@uidaho.edu
- Terrell Sorensen**, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Power County • 208-745-7621 • tsorensen@uidaho.edu
- Grant Loomis**, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Blaine County • 208-788-5585 • gloomis@uidaho.edu
- David Callister**, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Butte County • 208-527-8587 • dcallister@uidaho.edu

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Table 1: A breakdown of attendee demographics.

Location	Sex		Ethnicity		
	Male	Female	White	Hispanic	N.American
Malad	19		19		
Preston	21		21		
Montpelier	9	1	10		
Soda Springs	29		29		
Hailey	7	3	10		
Arco	4	2	6		
American Falls	32	1	29	4	
Blackfoot	16	2	16	1	1
Total	137	9	140	5	1

**The Future**

This year only two remote sites were offered as a test of technology and acceptance by applicators of this education delivery method. We anticipate increased use of Zoom technology to reach more participants in future workshops.

**Cooperators and Co-Sponsors**

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture cooperated through authorizing recertification credits. Their support helps make workshops successful as we strive to serve the needs of pesticide applicators throughout Idaho.