

University of Wyoming Pesticide Safety Education Program (UW-PSEP) 4Q2019

Goals

- Seek and maintain sustainable funding stream.
- Develop a robust pesticide safety education program for all Wyoming applicators.

Stakeholders

- EPA; Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA); University of Wyoming (UW);
- All Certified Private and Commercial applicators of pesticides.
 - Private Applicators – applications to agricultural land owned or managed by applicator (Farm and Ranch)
 - Commercial Applicators – accepting fees for services.
- Any non-licensed applicators (general public) can benefit from pesticide safety education.

Funding

Prior to 2015, funding for all state PSEPs was provided in-part by the EPA. During 2015, the EPA withdrew all PSEP funding while concurrently passing updated regulations. These updated regulations (the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and changes to the Certification and Training Rules (C&T)) require a significant investment of additional resources in order for states to comply with new educational requirements.

In response to funding shortfalls and with encouragement from industry, the WDA and UW-PSEP initiated a stakeholder advisory team composed of representatives from WDA, UW, private and commercial applicators, including Weed & Pest (13 members total).

Analysis of all possible funding sources resulted in one sustainable solution: increasing product registration fees. Product registration fees are paid by Ag Chemical companies who register their products for sale and use in the state. Product registration fees are collected by the WDA and deposited in the special natural resource account in the Department of Agriculture. Wyoming product registration fees were the second lowest in the nation at \$75.00 per product. Efforts of the advisory team in 2016 resulted in a Legislative increase of the product registration fee to \$90.00¹. Even with this increase, Wyoming registration fees remain second lowest in the nation. This \$15.00 per product fee is deposited into the pesticide education account in the Department of Agriculture and designated specifically to be used by the University of Wyoming PSEP. This fund to support the UW-PSEP is \$185,000 per year. These funds were first available July 2017. Funding cycle is July 1- June 30, considered pass through dollars by the WDA, negotiated as a grant annually, with a year-end report due to WDA Technical Service Director June 30 of each year.

¹ <https://www.wyoleg.gov/2016/bills/HB0117.pdf>

Funds from the WDA grant must be 100% spent at the conclusion of the grant term. Funds collected for other services (fees collected for CEU programs, on-line CEU registration, postage for manual shipping, etc.) are deposited into a “revolving” account maintained at the University of Wyoming. This revolving account currently has a balance of \$300.00. 100% of funds generated by, or in support of, the PSEP are directed back into the PSEP program.

Pesticide Safety Education “Robustness”

The minimum required educational program content is directed by the EPA and developed by UW-PSEP to keep private and commercial applicators in compliance with regulations within the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA, 1972) and the Wyoming rules as outlined in Chapters 21 and 28 of the Environmental Pesticide Control Act, 1973.

Once the UW-PSEP program was created, there was little need to change or update content until 2015. Significant changes to the program are now required in order to provide educational compliance with the new regulations. It has been suggested that program robustness can be improved if PSEPs can provide a variety of learning opportunities and increase the ability for applicators to obtain CEU’s.

Wyoming Certified Applicator Details

- There are 4570 Private applicators-2019 CPARD data² (914 renewals per year; 5-year renewal cycle).
- Private applicators can obtain license by one of three methods:
 - Take home workbook (to be phased out when new Certification & Training rules activated (C&T activation - as early as 2022))
 - Attend Private Applicator Education Program and complete license application.
 - Read Core training manual and pass proctored electronic exam with 70% or better.
- There are 1792 Commercial applicators-2019 CPARD data (597 renewals per year; 3-year renewal cycle).
- Commercial Applicators can obtain license by two methods:
 - Must pass Core exam, plus one additional category exam with 70% or better.
 - Category exam must match area of application made by commercial applicators.
 - Applicators must hold appropriate category license in each area where they make applications.
 - Wyoming has 32 license categories.
 - Exams are electronic and must be proctored.

² EPA Certification Plan and Reporting Database

<https://cpardpub.epa.gov/apex/cpardpub/f?p=165:1:2913009563652:::::>

- Applicators can obtain license in another state and complete WDA reciprocity requirements.
- Electronic exams are administered (proctored) at official locations in the state including each UW Extension office.
- Exams questions are taken directly from training manual text and are designed to test applicator competency.

Educational Programming

- Statewide educational programs are a review of training manuals. Specific required content is dictated by the EPA. UW-Pesticide Safety Education programs are not a substitution for reading the training manuals as exam questions are taken directly from the training manual text.
 - Seven (7) UW Extension Educators are using the same educational content as provided by UW-PSEP in order to provide a consistent program message to applicators statewide.
 - Program content includes Core and broad category overview; most recent focus has been on Worker Protection Standard education.
- Education and Certification of New Commercial applicators.
 - There is no in-person education requirement for new commercial applicators.
 - New applicators can self-study training manuals and arrange to take proctored exams.
 - UW-PSEP offers an annual education program for Commercial Applicators seeking a new license (Casper, WY).
 - There are approximately 45 students who attend this program per year.
 - Program registration fee is \$110.00 per student.
 - Registration fees are collected by the Wyoming Weed Management Association (WWMA) to cover the cost of the meeting (same as below).

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and License Renewal Opportunities

- There are currently no CEU requirements for Private Applicators.
 - Private applicators must, at a minimum, attend a Private Applicator Education program once within the 5-year renewal cycle of their license in order for license to remain valid.
- Commercial Applicators are required to obtain 24 CEUs in the three-year term of their license.
 - CEU's are self-reported and database maintained by the WDA.
 - Commercial applicators can receive all 24 CEUs to maintain their license at the recertification program held in Casper, WY each January.
 - The Casper recertification program is a group effort by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA), University of Wyoming(UW), Wyoming

Ag Business Association (WABA) and the Wyoming Weed Management Association (WWMA).

- There are approximately 275 attendees per year.
- Program Registration fee is \$110.00 per applicator.
- Registration fees are collected by the Wyoming Weed Management Association (WWMA) to cover the cost of the meeting.
- Education and Testing “Road Show” (2019, was year one)
 - Open to all applicators- effort to provide additional CEU opportunities around the state.
 - 8 CEU’s available for commercial applicators (\$70.00).
 - Provide proctored testing for those prepared to take exams (Testing is free) via mobile testing lab (up to 30 individuals at a time).
 - Scheduled for 6 communities in 2020³ (Evanston, Jackson, Thermopolis, Laramie, Wheatland, & Gillette).
 - Registration fees are collected by the UW-PSEP and deposited into the PSEP revolving account.
- On-line versions of specific training manuals are available or are in development.
 - On-line content is not a substitution for reading the training manual when preparing for exams.
 - Core Manual is available⁴.
 - 12 CEU’s are available for Commercial applicators (\$30.00).
 - Commercial applicators can only use this option once per three-year term of their license.
 - Proof of payment and Certificate of Completion must be forwarded to WDA in order for CEU credit to be logged.
 - There is also a free version⁵ available with the same content.
 - Can be used by anyone as:
 - general education;
 - as review prior to testing or;
 - proof of additional training prior to re-testing.
 - Category 906 Rights-of-Way is being developed – soon to be released.
 - CEU’s and fee to be determined.
 - Anyone can use as general education or as review prior to testing (free).
 - Anticipated release date: (release date TBD as finishing touches need to be completed by Ag Communications).
 - Other category content being discussed.

³ <https://uwyoextension.org/psep/>

⁴ <https://extension.catalog.instructure.com/courses/ext-core-0119> (Fee Version)

⁵ <https://extension.catalog.instructure.com/courses/ext-core-inhouse-0319> (Free Version)

- Registration fees are collected by the UW-PSEP and deposited into the PSEP revolving account.
- On-line materials developed are being evaluated for national use by the National Pesticide Safety Education Center (NPSEC).

Training manuals

- Training for exams is via reading the training manuals.
 - Since 2016, nine (9) training manuals covering 18 categories have been updated by UW-PSEP and made available.
 - Corresponding exam questions have been written, vetted, and uploaded into the WDA testing program.
 - Based on national recommendation, training manuals are written at or below 8th grade reading level.
 - There is a plan in place to upgrade all category training manuals and exams.
 - 902 Forest and 905 Aquatic are scheduled for release in 2020.
 - Updated manual content has been adopted from Nationally available manuals, leveraged from neighboring state manuals, or are written by state experts. (Data from MN State University indicate development of manuals with 100% new content can take up to 5 years and \$50,000 to complete – The UW PSEP does not have the resources, staff, nor time to develop 32 category manuals with 100% new content).
- All manuals are available digitally and print for free. If printed versions are ordered from UW, there is a \$10.00 shipping fee per manual. You can pick up copies from campus for free.
- Extension offices have training manuals available or can get them.
- Manuals are provided to other state entities.
- Training manuals are available (as of August 2019) in 80 Wyoming libraries.

Alternative Learning opportunities

- Wyoming colleges are engaged in offering training and licensing programs.
 - EWC, Torrington - 2019 is year 3
 - NWC, Sheridan - planning Spring 2020
 - NWC, Powell – planning Spring 2020
 - LCCC, Cheyenne and other Colleges are in negotiations.
- Negotiating with FFA instructors to bring all or parts of the core manual to the classroom.

UW-PSEP Employee profiles

Jeff M. Edwards, UW Extension (100%), Pesticide Applicator Training Coordinator (PSEP)/Small acre Horticulture, Specialist.

Bachelors, Entomology, University of Wyoming, 1988; Masters, Entomology Texas A&M, 1992; DowAgroSciences 1991-2007, Insecticide Discovery, Sales, Six-Sigma, Field Research Tech; UW Extension Educator 2008, current role 2014. Primary PSEP responsibilities: creation of educational compliance programming for statewide use; training manual review and edits, vetting of exam questions; liaison with WDA.

Lori J. Schafer, UW Extension PSEP (100%), Sr. Project Coordinator PSEP.

Agricultural upbringing and background; USDA-FSA, 1977-1986; UW-Extension 1992-2014, joined UW-PSEP in 2014. Primary PSEP responsibilities include: training manual review and edits, creation of exam questions; Worker Protection Standard education; liaison with WDA.

Tanya M. Engel, UW Extension (100%), Coord, Area Public Relations.

Bachelors of Art, Political Science & Business Administration, Linfield College, 1989; Masters Business Administration, University of Wyoming, 2018; Variety of Communication, design and marketing positions 1989-2014; University of Wyoming Extension, Graphic Designer, 2015–current. Primary responsibilities: Create, edit, review, and design publications, communications, and marketing materials for UW-PSEP and all other departments within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Abridged Organizational Chart

