

Training Pest Applicators to Protect Environment

Issue:

Pesticide applications can pose hazards to the environment.

What's been done:

During 2002, UD Cooperative Extension conducted six Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) sessions. A total of 172 pesticide applicators attended prior to taking their certification exam. Each PAT consisted of nine contact hours on application equipment and drift control, calibration, groundwater protection, environmental protection, safe transportation, storage and spill clean-up, disposal, pest identification and control, the pesticide law, understanding the pesticide label, and personal protection. At the end of each PAT, applicators completed forms and listed new practices that they would incorporate in their work to reduce pesticide exposure. Applicators were surveyed to determine how many new practices had been adopted.

Impact:

Seventy-five percent of pledged behavior were “tried at least once,” and 59 percent of pledged behavior were “adopted as routine.”

Impact area:

Extension

Funding:

USDA/CSREES Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP)
Delaware CES

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