Pesticide Use Has Potential Health and Environmental Concerns

- Federal and state pesticide laws and regulations continue to change due to pressure on regulatory agencies and pesticide applicators stemming from environmental and public health concerns.

Extension’s Response

- Established in 1965, PSEP is coordinated by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and provides training and educational materials for 27 licensing categories for pesticide applicators as required by federal and state law. These include: 1) general standards for licensing; 2) pest control; 3) termites; 4) ornamental and turf; 5) right-of-way; and 6) public health and vector control.

- Each PSEP training course teaches a variety of topics, such as ecology, toxicology, emergency response, and proper storage, transport and disposal of pesticides. In addition, all training programs meet the educational requirements administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to obtain classroom credit hours necessary for pesticide applicator licenses.

- In addition to conducting applicator certification and re-certification trainings, PSEP develops, maintains and distributes all federally and state-required study materials for applicator training and licensing in Texas.

- In 2011, PSEP and collaborators conducted continuing-education programs and trainings in Texas for 18,624 pesticide applicators.

Economic Impact

- Average annual wages for pest-management professionals were used to estimate the salary impact of these trained participants to sustain jobs and businesses in the state.

- As the federally designated pesticide-safety education entity in Texas, PSEP directly supports 18,624 commercial and non-commercial pest-management jobs with an estimated annual salary base of $729 million.

- These impacts do not include the economic benefits associated with the 41,552 private pesticide applicators in the state who must receive ongoing continuing education to maintain their licenses.

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