

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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DATE: February 6, 2020

TO: State Lead Agencies, Territories, and Tribes

FROM: Taryn LaScola-Miner, Director of Crop and Pest Services, Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Division

It is our pleasure to invite your agency to participate in the 2020 Enforcement and Use Concerns Pesticide Inspector Residential Training (PIRT) Course hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The program will be held at the Hotel Northampton located in Northampton, Massachusetts on May 4th through May 8th, 2020.

The target audience of this program will be pesticide inspectors that conduct pesticide use inspections and investigations. The objectives of the program are:

- 1) to provide inspectors with instruction on inspection techniques including interviewing, sampling, and case building and
- 2) to provide inspectors with knowledge on current issues in relation to emerging crops.

The program is intended to be interactive and include sharing of information and experiences by all attendees. Attendees should come away from this course with an enhanced understanding of higher level investigational and enforcement skills. **With this in mind, nominees who enforcing pesticide laws or regulations and who routinely conduct Ag and Structural related inspections in their state, will be given preference.**

The training will begin on May 5, 2020 and conclude on May 8, 2020. May 4th and May 8th will be used as travel days to and from the meeting site. All airline transportation, hotel, and meals associated with attending the training will be paid by Massachusetts through grant funding provided by EPA. Participants will be reimbursed for other expenses including airline baggage fees, transportation, parking, and travel day per diems. Participants will be responsible for any incidental expenses, such as telephone charges or expenses not considered as travel or lodging expenses for this workshop. We realize that this training opportunity represents a substantial commitment of time. However, MDAR and EPA feel the curriculum will enhance the ability of your inspector to address regulatory enforcement and investigation issues under your jurisdiction. Therefore, we request a commitment that participants attend the entire training.

Please note that MDAR cannot provide any funds for participants from EPA regional offices, and nominees from EPA regions must make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations.

Supervisors/Managers should complete the nominee form online for one inspector and one alternate by Feb 28th, 2020. Access link to form: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/forms/2020-enforcement-and-use-concerns-pesticide-inspector-regulatory-training-pirt>

Once the nomination forms have been received, participants will be notified of their acceptance and additional information will be provided regarding travel, lodging and the program agenda.

We are looking forward to having your nominee attend this training opportunity. If you have any questions pertaining to this program, please feel free to contact Laurie Rocco at (617) 626-1782 or by email at laurie.rocco@mass.gov. Please forward this message as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Taryn LaScola-Miner

Taryn LaScola-Miner
Director, Crop and Pest Services
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources