



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division

James W. Burnette, Jr.
Director

January 18, 2021

Dear State Lead Agency, Tribal, and Territory Representatives:

It is our pleasure to invite your agency to participate in the ***VIRTUAL Basic Pesticide and Use Concerns "Pesticide Inspector Regulatory Training" (PIRT) Course*** to be held April 19-22, 2021. We strongly recognize that these courses offer a tremendous resource to our pesticide inspectors across the country. Whereas the virtual course may not offer the in-person networking opportunities to get to know one another, we will strive to make the course enjoyable and offer an interactive learning experience to those who attend. The program is brought to you by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) and North Carolina State University in conjunction with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. We are pleased to announce that Wayne Buhler, the Pesticide Safety Coordinator, and his team at North Carolina State University will host the virtual course via a conference hosting software.

The course will focus on basic pesticide inspector skills, current pesticide use concerns that are facing our inspection staff (Worker Protection Standard, Pesticide Drift, Pollinator Protection, Respiratory Protection), enforcement case documentation, and updates from the EPA. The program is intended to be interactive and include the sharing of information and experiences by all attendees. Takeaways from this course should include an enhanced understanding of pesticide registration, enforcement history, use documentation, FIFRA and its requirements, and investigational and enforcement skills. **With this in mind, nominees with less than 5 years of pesticide regulatory experience in enforcing agricultural laws or regulations and who routinely conduct Ag and related inspections in their state, will be given preference.**

This program is fully funded through a grant provided by the EPA.

The program will begin around noon EDT on Monday April 19th and conclude by 5:00 pm EDT on Thursday April 22, 2021, running from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm daily. We realize that this training opportunity represents a substantial commitment of time. However, NCDA&CS and the 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.

Supervisors/Managers should complete the nominee form online for one inspector and one alternate by Monday, March 8, 2021. Access link to form:

<https://www.epa.gov/compliance/forms/2021-virtual-basic-pesticide-and-use-concerns-pesticide-inspector-regulatory> .

If you have problems accessing the form, please contact Patrick Jones at patrick.jones@ncagr.gov. Once the nomination form has been received, selected participants will be notified, and additional information will be shared.

If you have any questions pertaining to this program, please feel free to contact Patrick Jones, at (336) 486-7106. Please forward this message as appropriate.

Sincerely,

J. Patrick Jones

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Deputy Director of Pesticide Programs, NCDA&CS