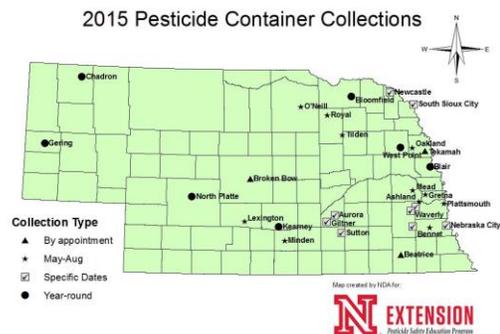


Plant Health Protection Update

- A new publication, [Using 2014 Farm Bill Programs for Pollinator Conservation](#), provides a concise summary of how Farm Bill conservation programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) or the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), can be used to restore or enhance habitat for pollinators on working farms and private lands. The publication, authored by the Xerces Society and NRCS, can be found here: bit.ly/2014FBpollinator.
- Nebraskans should note that the [Nebraska Buffer Strip Program](#), which offers financial incentives for installing filter strips and riparian forest buffer strips to reduce pollutants in runoff, can also be used conjunctively with several USDA programs, and could possibly be used with pollinator habitat in mind. Funding is currently available through the program. More info can be found at bit.ly/NDAbuffer or by contacting a Natural Resources District or USDA NRCS office.
- EPA has recently extended the comment period for one proposed regulation and one proposed policy. The links below contain the Federal Register Notices, background information, comments received to date, and procedures for submitting comments:
 - [Mitigation for Pesticide Products that are Acutely Toxic to Bees](#) (1.usa.gov/1SOTrJ8) until August 28, 2015
 - [Risk Management Approach for Understanding and Identifying Protections for the Monarch Butterfly](#) (1.usa.gov/1KB6i2y) until August 24, 2015.
- People interested in obtaining initial certification for a commercial pesticide applicator license are reminded that walk-in testing dates are ongoing. The remaining dates and locations, as well as the categories of licenses and where to find training material, can be found at bit.ly/NDAPPdates.
- Many collection sites for the pesticide container recycling program are also ongoing. Applicators can submit triple rinsed or pressure rinsed 1, 2.5, 15, 30, or 55 gallon plastic containers, which will be recycled into ag drain pipe, sign posts, fence posts, pallets, and more. See a list and map of collection locations at pested.unl.edu/recycling.



- Pesticide applicators and specialty crop growers alike are reminded of a free communication tool called DriftWatch, intended to help reduce the number of pesticide drift incidents on commercial specialty crops. Commercial specialty crop growers can register their crop locations so they are shown on an easy-to-use web map, and applicators can register with DriftWatch to receive email notices when new information is added to the map. Please see this [DriftWatch fact sheet \(bit.ly/NDADWinfo\)](http://bit.ly/NDADWinfo) which describes how the web site works and lists the commercial crops eligible in Nebraska.



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