

Plant Health Protection Update



- **Stop and say ‘Hey’ at Husker Harvest Days!** Several information booths from the ‘plant’ side of NDA Animal and Plant Health Protection can be seen at [Husker Harvest Days](#) again this year.
 - Entomology Program staff will be at the NRD Building in the southeast corner of the site (Lot 1106).
 - Noxious Weed Program staff can be found at the Nebraska Weed Control Association tent on the north side of the show site (Lot 1016).
 - Pesticide Program staff will be in the Nebraska Farmer Hospitality Tent in the very center of the site at the corner of Central and Main.

In addition, NDA Ag Promotions & Development will be in the Nebraska Commodities Building at the east end of Main (Lot 8), the NextGen and Negotiations Programs will be in the Nebraska Farmer tent, and NDA’s animal health programs will be represented in the Livestock Industries Building in the northwest corner of the site. A map and more information can be found at the link above.

- **EPA has issued a proposal to revise the Certification of Pesticide Applicators rule**, and is accepting comments until November 23, 2015. Background information, including a summary of the proposed changes and why they are being proposed, an “expanded comparison” table, as well as a link to the Federal Register docket can be found at bit.ly/EPACertRule.

According to the website, the proposed rule will:

- Enhance applicator competency standards to ensure that RUPs are used safely.
- Establish a first time-ever nation-wide minimum age of 18 for certified applicators and persons working under their direct supervision.
- Require all applicators to renew certifications every 3 years.
- Require additional specialized certifications for people (both private and commercial applicators) using high-risk application methods (fumigation and aerial).
- Require first time annual safety training and increased oversight for persons working under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. Training includes reducing take-home pesticide exposure to protect worker families.

- Promote interstate recognition of applicator licenses to reduce the administrative burden for businesses that operate in multiple states.
- Provide expanded options for establishing certification programs in Indian Country that acknowledge tribal sovereignty.
- Clarify and streamline requirements for states, tribes, and federal agencies to administer their own certification programs.

The [UNL Pesticide Safety Education Program](#) also has a brief overview of the proposed changes and how applicators may be affected if approved.

- **Upcoming Webinars on Sustainable Pest Control in Schools.** Over the next school year, EPA will host a second webinar series on school integrated pest management (IPM). IPM is a smart, sensible, and sustainable approach to managing pests that emphasizes pest prevention and the appropriate use of pesticides. Experts from across the country will relay information and practical strategies for establishing and improving IPM programs in schools. The monthly webinars, which begin on September 21, will help school districts adopt a proactive approach to pest control.

This year's series will address the following topics:

- September 21: How to Conduct a Pest Assessment at Your School
- October 20: Managing Head Lice in Schools
- November 10: Writing an IPM Policy for Your School District
- December 15: Bed Bugs in Schools
- January 26, 2016: Washington State School IPM Enhancement Project
- February 23, 2016: Procuring IPM-Based Pest Management Services
- March 15, 2016: IPM for Turf on School Grounds
- April 19, 2016: Vertebrate Turf Pests
- May 17, 2016: Ants – The #1 Pest in Schools

Find information on these upcoming webinars and last year's webinars at bit.ly/EPASchoolIPM.

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