

# Hands-on Training For Pesticide Applicators

AN INNOVATIVE FORMAT FOR PESTICIDE applicator workshops that was developed and tested in Southern California in 1990 now will be repeated in Northern California in 1992. Workshops are scheduled for Chico on May 6, Arbuckle on May 12, Davis on May 14, and Yuba City on May 28.

The idea for this type of workshop stemmed from the challenge to provide quality, up-to-date training to pesticide applicators. The large numbers of current and potential applicators, the size and diversity of the state, and the many state and federal laws and regulations that affect pesticide use—including a new regulation mandating continuing education for certified applicators—contribute to the current difficulty of designing suit-

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able and meaningful programs.

The University of California, through local Cooperative Extension offices and the Statewide Integrated Pest Management Project, cooperates with several professional organizations within California to sponsor applicator and pest management professional seminars and workshops. A workgroup consisting of UC farm advisors and specialists, along with industry representatives, developed the prototype hands-on program which will be offered in May. It recognizes that this particular style of program

will be one of many different types that should be made available to applicators to prepare them for state certification exams and to comply with continuing education requirements, as well as meet the mandated training requirements for any employee who handles pesticides.

The workgroup identified seven topics to be presented at the prototype workshops in the four Northern California locations. Topics are interrelated and follow the sequence of steps an applicator must take to plan, perform and complete any pesticide application. This sequence is designed to follow a typical work day in the life of a person who applies pesticides. Each 50-minute topic involves hands-on experience with equipment, protective clothing and other materials used to perform applications.

Since many of the noncertified pesticide applicators in California are of Hispanic origin, the Chico, Arbuckle and Davis hands-on training workshops will have both Spanish and English sections. For the Spanish sections, all written training materials are translated into Spanish, and instructors fluent in Spanish are being selected to present each of the seven topics. The Yuba City workshop will be conducted entirely in the Punjabi language to accommodate the large number of Sikh workers in that area. Training materials for this workshop are currently being translated into Punjabi, and Sikh instructors will undergo extensive training to prepare them for the workshop.

For additional information about the workshops, contact the Statewide Integrated Pest Management project at UC-Davis, at (916) 752-2733, or your local farm advisor's office. ■

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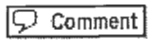
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