

Agricultural & Environmental Safety
Unit Agrilife.org/aes

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Auxin Training Update

Dr. Mark Matocha and Dr. Don L. Renchie

AgriLife Extension continues working with TDA to provide label mandated training to satisfy the federal and state requirements for dicamba and 2,4-D products. If EPA makes additional product label changes, the training material will be updated to ensure applicators are in compliance.

Dr. Scott Nolte will deliver an auxin training rollout webinar for CEAs on January 8, 2024. All of the auxin training materials necessary to conduct the training are available on the AES website. Do not include these courses in your traditional CEU program requests (including courses less than 3 hours in duration). If your programmatic goal is to have a 5 hour CEU activity, submit a PA-409 for 4 CEUs and provide a separate PA-411E course roster for the 5th hour.

If your goal is to facilitate a 5 hour CEU activity and provide an additional “Auxin Herbicide Training” for cotton or soybean producers, submit a PA-409 for the 5 hour activity (including a PA-411E) and a use separate PA-411E course roster for the “Auxin Herbicide Training” activity.

2024 CEU Allowances

Dr. Don L. Renchie and Dr. Mark Matocha

Agricultural Applicators— As applicator licenses renew, they must have all of the required CEUs to renew their private, commercial and noncommercial applicators licenses. Upon receipt of the 2024 renewal notice, submit the appropriate renewal fee(s). **Structural Applicators**—MUST have obtained ALL of their required CEUs in 2023 preceding the calendar year (2024) in which their license expires OR they may not renew. If you renew without CEUs, you are subject to a \$300 penalty and/or denial of license renewal. Live interactive (proctored by camera) webinars will continue to be allowed in 2024 for Ag and SPCS courses.

Will Consumers Be Able to Purchase Roundup in the Future?

Dr. Mark Matocha and Dr. Don L. Renchie

Roundup is a broad-spectrum herbicide that contains the active ingredient glyphosate. Glyphosate is a non-selective weed killer and will kill most plants within days or weeks of contact. As of 2023, there have been 165,000 claims against Roundup for causing bodily injury, 113,000 of which claims have been resolved. EPA has concluded glyphosate does not cause cancer and approved the Roundup label without a warning.

To manage and mitigate the risks of Roundup litigation in the U.S., Bayer has developed a five-point plan. The Five-Point Plan includes five goals: seek a positive ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court, continue to manage current cases, update formulations in the U.S. Lawn and Garden market, develop a claims program to manage future cases, and promote a new safety study web page.

Within this Five-Point Plan, the active ingredient, glyphosate, will no longer be used in the U.S. residential lawn and garden market due to the number of claims that come from residential users. This action will not impact any of the glyphosate-based agricultural or professional products. To ensure each user is informed about glyphosate based products, Bayer has developed a web page that has links to scientific safety studies conducted for these products. This information can be found at bayer.com.

After winning nine trial court cases in a row, in late 2023 Bayer lost four straight cases in which the juries found in favor of the plaintiffs, awarding them both compensatory and punitive damages. Bayer has stated that the company intends to appeal the most recent decisions. Many of the claims are described as a form of cancer such as Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

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EPA Label Mandated Stewardship Training

Dr. Don L. Renchie and Dr. Mark Matocha

There are specific training requirements to apply three dicamba products that are registered for over-the-top application to dicamba-tolerant soybean and cotton. These products include Xtendimax with VaporGrip Technology, Engenia Herbicide, and Tavium plus VaporGrip Technology. It is a state-limited pesticide due to its high potential to cause adverse effects to non-target sites. You must be a certified applicator to apply dicamba over-the-top products. The new restrictions do not allow application under supervision of a certified applicator.

2,4-D is for use after weed emergence on genetically-modified corn, soybean, and cotton crops as well as use on crops such as conventional corn, soybean, and cotton crops. It is also a state-limited pesticide which requires all 2,4-D products that exceed the package size and dilution requirements to be purchased and applied with a license in Texas. All 2,4-D products can be applied under supervisor of a certified applicator. Enlist One and Enlist Duo are approved for use in 34 states including Texas.

In order for a licensed applicator to apply 2,4-D or dicamba, they must first visit **EPA Bulletins Live! Two** within three months of the intended application to confirm there are no additional use restrictions for their area as specified on the label and complete the annual stewardship training. Applicators are encouraged to include this information in their records, especially the date they visited the site.

Endangered Species Act Legislation Update

Dr. Don L. Renchie and Dr. Mark Matocha

As the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) addresses legal challenges brought by environmental interest groups regarding the Endangered Species Act, pesticide products will have label mandated stipulations regarding stewardship training and endangered species verification procedures.

Applicators are encouraged to review each product label and abide by all stipulations. As information pertaining to specific products or types of pesticide (herbicide, rodenticide, or insecticides) becomes available, we will distribute the information, as well as post it on the AES website for CEA use and distribution.

2024 Last Chance Video Course Numbers

Dr. Mark Matocha and Dr. Don L. Renchie

TDA has issued the course numbers for use of the Last Chance Videos (LCV) for 2024. As you may recall, the videos are for use in facilitating agricultural applicator compliance with recertification requirements. They are used when an applicator needs to submit their license renewals and were not able to get the required CEUs during their recertification cycle.

When CEAs use LCVs to provide CEUs to applicators they cannot award partial credit for any of the videos. Awarding partial credit for LCVs could cause some applicators to receive improper credits when TDA audits their accounts. Each LCV is approved for 2 CEUs in varying categories. If CEAs are going to use the LCV course numbers, then the applicator must watch the entire video and receive credit for both hours. In the event that an applicator only needs one hour, CEAs can allow the applicator to watch one hour of a video, but the CEA would use their county code course number for that hour instead of the LCV course number. Adhering to this policy in the future will help ensure that applicators receive the correct credit for the educational material they viewed.

TDA requires that each LCV have its own certificate, and its own PA-411E.

LCV 1: 2024 Course Number 0922434 (2 L&R CEUs)

LCV 2: 2024 Course Number 0922433(2 IPM CEUs)

LCV 3: 2024 Course Number 0922431 (1 Drift CEU & 1 General CEU)

LCV 4: 2024 Course Number 0922428 (2 General Safety CEUs)

Aerial Applicator Video: 2024 Course Number 0922430 (1 Drift CEU & 1 HSF CEU)

Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training: 2024 Course Number 0921920 (1 L&R CEU)

Auxin Training (Video): 2024 Course Number 0921802 (1 L&R CEU)

Auxin Training (Lecture): 2024 Course Number 0921800 (1 L&R CEU)

2024 Political Subdivision Employee Vector Training and Testing

Dr. Don L. Renchie

Below are the 2024 dates and locations for the TDA Noncommercial Political Pesticide Applicator License General Standards and Public Health Category training courses.

- Weslaco—February 27-29, 2024
- Dallas—May 28-30, 2024
- Rosenberg—September 24-26, 2024
- San Antonio—November 19-21, 2024

See the attached document which details dates and locations, including exam procedures. TDA strongly encourages participants to submit the PA-400N before attending.

Surplus Pesticide Collection Activities

Dr. Don L. Renchie

The Texas Department of Agriculture now has a page on their website dedicated to pesticide waste collection activities. This will ensure every agricultural producer can find a safe, efficient, and economical way to dispose of unwanted pesticides. The dates are posted below. Please visit the website for locations and times.

- Robstown, TX—January 31, 2024
- Lamesa, TX—April 4, 2024

<https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Regulatory-Programs/Pesticides/Agricultural-Applicators/Pesticide-Waste-Collection>