

How EPA and State Lead Agencies can assist significantly impacted (revenue, staffing, workload) Land Grant University Pesticide Safety Education Programs (PSE) Programs during and post-COVID.

Region 10 States Issue Topic

SFIREG Meeting

December 7 – 8, 2020

DRAFT

PSEPs are the cornerstone for outreach and training to certified applicators of federal and state restricted use pesticides and applicators on public properties.

Key Questions

- What happens if the Land Grant University Pesticide Safety Education Program weakens due to COVID impacts on self-generated revenue from in-person classes in some states, or disappears in a number of states?
- What consistent/increased income streams can be planned so many PSEPs are not investing time scrambling for funds?
 - Current EPA support through extension grant is \$16,625 per state
- What is the best way to keep training costs low?
- How SLAs can facilitate applicators being reached, while keeping the PSEP viable?
- What happens if the only access to pesticide safety education becomes self-directed for a majority of applicators in the future?

The Case Against the Privatization of PSEP

- Synergies with other university experts and with the state lead agency
- Best positioned for train-the-trainer activities
- The key provider of core and category educational resources
- Non-biased, non-product-specific training of applicators
- Fills a critical void left by extensive not-for-profit outreach efforts that ignore or minimize personal and environmental safety/laws/compliance topics
- Provides objective support to regulators who must increasingly defend against legislative challenges to pesticide safety-related laws

In 2015

- 25% of PSEPs have less than ½ person to run their program
- 40% of PSEPs have less than \$75,000/year to run their program

During COVID

- Increased workload to deliver online and affirm attendance
- Decreased travel and workshop related expenses
- Diminished revenue due to fewer program offerings
- Fewer exam opportunities supported by pre-certification training

SFIREG DISCUSSION:

EPA manages several cooperative agreements related to pesticide education. Region 10 States and Land Grant Institution Pesticide Educator Programs propose discussion and solutions for funding and staffing topics that are stressing the state and regional systems, especially during 2020 COVID-19 impacts.

- How can these agreements be assessed for their value and allocation of funds for future awards?
- The PRIA-based awards are on different cycles.
- Evaluate and solve funding issues and also the challenges with cycles of how the PRIA system works and funding occurs.
- Start in depth conversations and problem solving to potentially change the amounts allocated per current agreement and how that may need to change over time with the upcoming agreements and reauthorization of PRIA.
- Assess how these agreements are funded and how funding commitment gaps can be improved. to meet the ongoing and challenging needs.
- Below is the list of agreements funded by PRIA dollars.
- Region 10 SLAs and Education Cooperators request consideration of this topic for an Issue Paper or White Paper.

EPA PRIA Cooperative Agreements Awaiting Awards

- [Projects to Advance the Safe Use of Pesticides](#)
- [Pesticide Educational Resource Collaborative \(Awarded January 2016\)](#) – under review

EPA PRIA Cooperative Agreements Awarded – 5-Year Agreements

- [National Farmworker Training Program \(Awarded November 2020\)](#) - \$2,500,000
- [The National Pesticide Information Center \(NPIC\) \(Awarded February 2019\)](#) - \$5,000,000
- [Engaging All Stakeholders \(Awarded August 2018\)](#) – MSU - \$2,500,000
- [Pesticide Education for Medical Professionals \(Awarded March 2018\)](#) - \$500,000
- [Funds Distribution Programs for Pesticide Safety Education Programs \(Awarded August 2017\)](#) - \$5,500,000