

June 7, 2022



## **Certification Training & Assessment Group (CTAG) Report to the State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG)**

CTAG is a group of state lead agencies (SLA), pesticide safety education programs (PSEP), and tribal certification programs that can rely on each other for collaboration, eliminate duplication of effort and maximize the utility of existing solutions for pesticide applicator certification and training (C&T).

### **CTAG Meetings**

- CTAG held monthly virtual meetings throughout 2021 and 2022.
- CTAG held a virtual 2-day meeting and open house on August 12 – 13, 2021, immediately following the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Virtual ASPCRO Conference.
  - Virtual Meeting
    - Evaluation of collaboration teams: Pro's and Con's
    - Reevaluating priority list, next topic, etc.
    - In-person meetings
    - Update from NPSEC
    - Update from CTAG workgroups
  - Open House
    - The value to being a CTAG representative
    - The value of joining collaboration teams
- CTAG members will be attending an in-person meeting July 18-19, 2022 to work on the following topics of interest:
  - White paper to outline reciprocity solutions amongst states.
  - Forum/Host for development of manual(s) material that is not already dedicated to PERC.
  - Host a forum with PSEPs (IMI PSEP: Wayne Buhler).

### **CTAG Membership**

Member terms are normally three years, but have been initially staggered to bring on new members in future years. Terms end January 31 each (YEAR) noted below. CTAG strives for balance between SLAs and PSEPs and with representation from four US regions (West, Southern, Northeast, North Central). CTAG is currently composed of 12 members including: 6 SLA representatives, 3 PSEP representatives, 1 tribal representative, and 2 ex-officio members. If you are interested in becoming a member of CTAG please contact Amy Sullivan at <amysullivan@ctagroup.us>. Membership Solicitation for 2022 will begin in January 2022.

- Co-Chair – Lindsey House, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Co-Chair – Linda Johns, University of Minnesota Extension
- **Western Region**
  - Lindsey House, Washington State Department of Agriculture
  - Neal Kittleson, Colorado Department of Agriculture
  - Stephen Vantassel, Montana Department of Agriculture
  - Kaci Buhl, Oregon State University
- **Northeast Region**
  - Vacant
  - Amanda Couture – Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
- **North Central Region**
  - Linda Johns – University of Minnesota (2023)
  - Gurinderbir (G.) Chahal, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- **Southern Region**
  - John Feagans, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (2022)
  - Brett Bultemeier, University of Florida
- **Tribal Representative**
  - Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes, North Dakota
- **Ex-officio**
  - Jeanne Kasai – EPA HQ
  - Amy Sullivan – CTAG Executive Secretary

## **Current Issues**

CTAG has several issues slated as high priority. From these issues, three workgroups were established, and scoping documents were created.

- Label Mandated Training Workgroup (scoping document created)
  - CTAG's goal is to create a white paper that describes the issues pesticide safety educators experience related to LMT. This will likely include the educators' overall perspective on LMT, suggestions for how to approach LMT in the future if needed, and the resulting impacts to the pesticide safety education programs in Extension and SLAs.
- On-demand and Webinar Training Workgroup (scoping document created)
- Remote Proctored Exams Workgroup (scoping document created)
- New Developments
  - White paper to outline reciprocity solutions amongst states.
  - Forum/Host for development of manual(s) material that is not already dedicated to PERC.
    - Host a forum with PSEPs (IMI PSEP: Wayne Buhler).

## **Collaboration Teams**

CTAG is working with the Michigan State University for establishing collaboration teams that broaden stakeholder group involvement, identify focus areas, and increase perspective, knowledge and development of possible solutions.

- Label mandated training collaboration team is currently active.
- On-demand and Webinar Training team to begin development.