

# Happy Birthday, PREP! 35 Years and Much More to Come

Lisa Blecker, PREP Administrator  
Colorado State University

March 3, 2025





**PREP Co-founders**

# PREP Started as a “Good Idea”



Jake Mackenzie,  
US EPA OPP  
(Based out of EPA's Region 9  
San Francisco Office)



Dennis Pendleton  
UC Davis Extension

= Pesticide  
Officials Pilot  
Program (POPP)

# What Happened?

- 1989 Jake and Dennis formed a steering committee & worked with EPA & AAPCO
- Original goal was to provide quality professional education for pesticide regulators
- Develop a **one-time** regulatory training program for state & tribal pesticide managers
- Created a 9-day curriculum within six months

Date	Courses	Attendees
1990	5 Comprehensive Combo courses	126
1991	3 Comprehensive Combo 2 Ground Water	151
1992	1 Comprehensive Combo 2 Ground Water 2 Endangered Species	104

*"After the second year the program was off and running – Jake MacKenzie"*

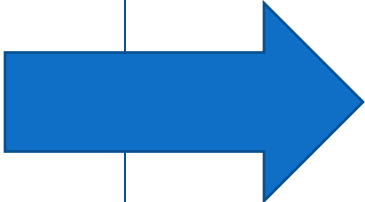


## PESTICIDE OFFICIALS PILOT PROGRAM

University of California Extension  
Davis, California  
Spring, 1990

Five comprehensive training courses for senior managers of pesticide regulatory programs throughout the U.S. will be held this spring on the Davis campus. These courses are designed to provide practical, up-to-date information on technical, policy, and management issues related to pesticide programs, assisting program managers in addressing the emerging pesticide issues of the 1990s. Course instructors include experts from the University of California, other universities, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, other governmental agencies, and private industry.

Topics to be covered during the program include:



- Environmental fate of pesticides
- Alternative agriculture: alternative means of pest control
- Ground water protection programs
- Ground water/soil monitoring, analysis and remediation
- Toxicology of pesticides
- Risk assessment, management and communication
- Program management
- New pesticide regulations
- Worker protection and safety

**1<sup>st</sup> PREP Course: March 13-21, 1990 in Davis, CA**



# How Was PREP Funded?

- AAPCO members approved a slight decrease in state “STAG” funds
- Funded by both OPP and OECA
- OPP added funds in 2017 to support tribal participation
- PREP fully funded most years
- Funding remains at \$535k annually

Year	Funding Level	Average Course Days	#Attendees
1990	\$500,000	45	126
2001	\$500,000	25	131
2011	\$500,000	20	104
2020	\$535,000	15	125
2024	\$535,000	16	100

# PREP's Timeline

1990:

Pesticide Officials Pilot Program (POPP)  
March 13-21, 1990 (9 days!) First Course

1991:

Pesticide Officials Program (POP)

1992:

Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP)  
**Five** courses/year 1990-2013  
**Four** courses/year 2014 to present

1990- 2014:

PREP administered by UC Davis Extension, CA

2014-2019:

PREP administered by Washington State University

2020-2021:

PREP administered by UC Statewide IPM Program

2022-present:

PREP administered by Colorado State University



# PREP Administrators



1990 - 2013



2014 - 2019



2019 - present

# EPA's PREP Coordinators



Jake Mackenzie  
1990-2001



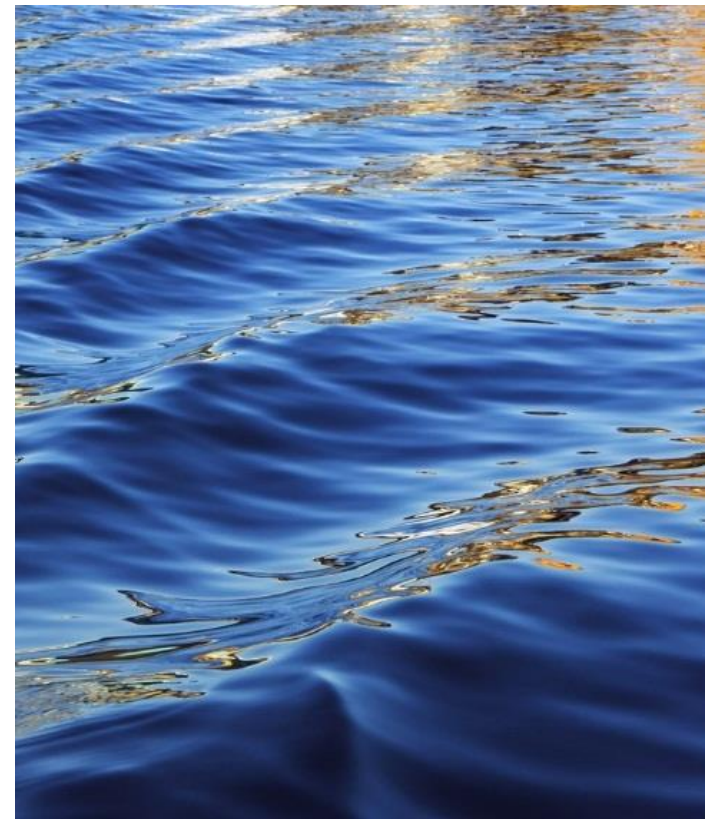
John Ward  
2002-2007



Dea Zimmerman  
2008-2018



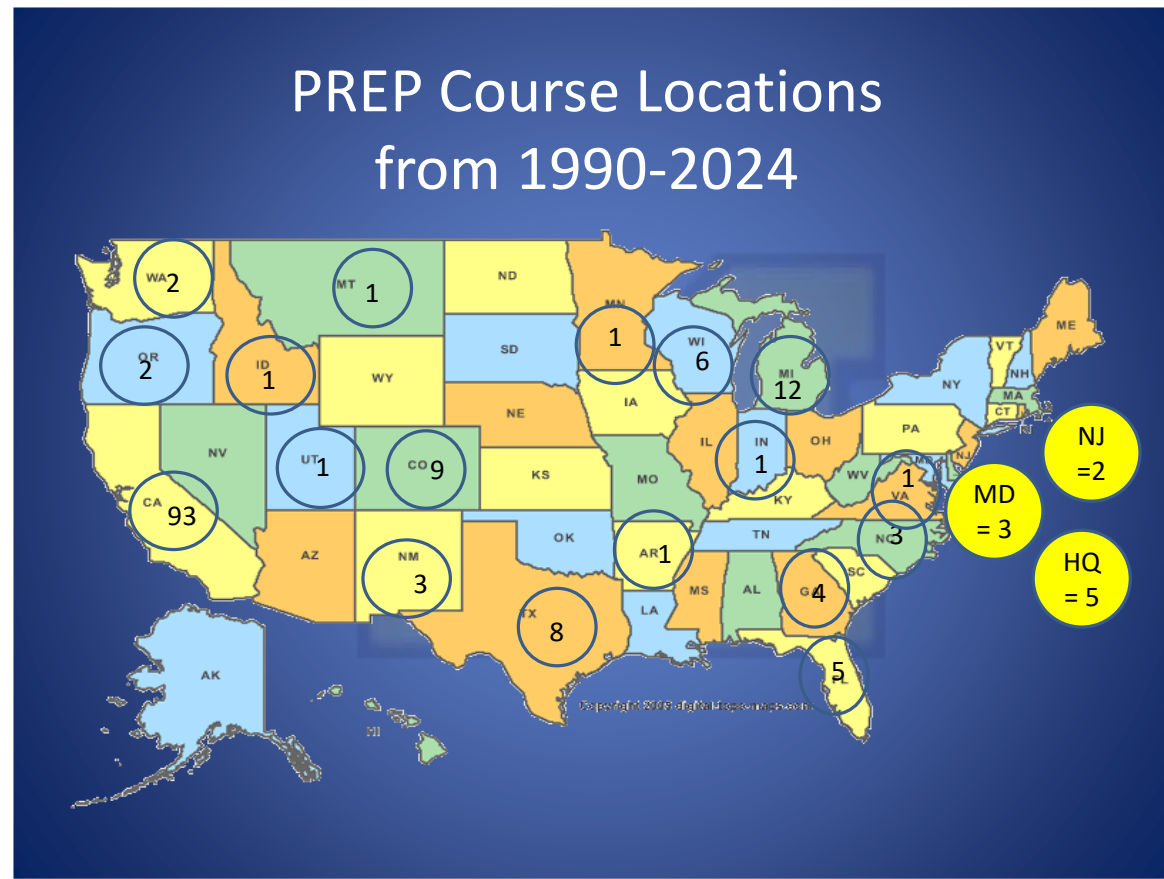
Cindy Wire  
2019-present





# PREP by the Numbers

- Served states, tribes and territories for **34** Seasons!! (1990-2024)
- Educated roughly **5,014** attendees
- Did not count all EPA attendees
- Offered approximately **174** courses through 2024
- Offered **46** unique courses
- Held courses in **21** states
- Conducted **9** online during pandemic





# How Does PREP Measure Success?



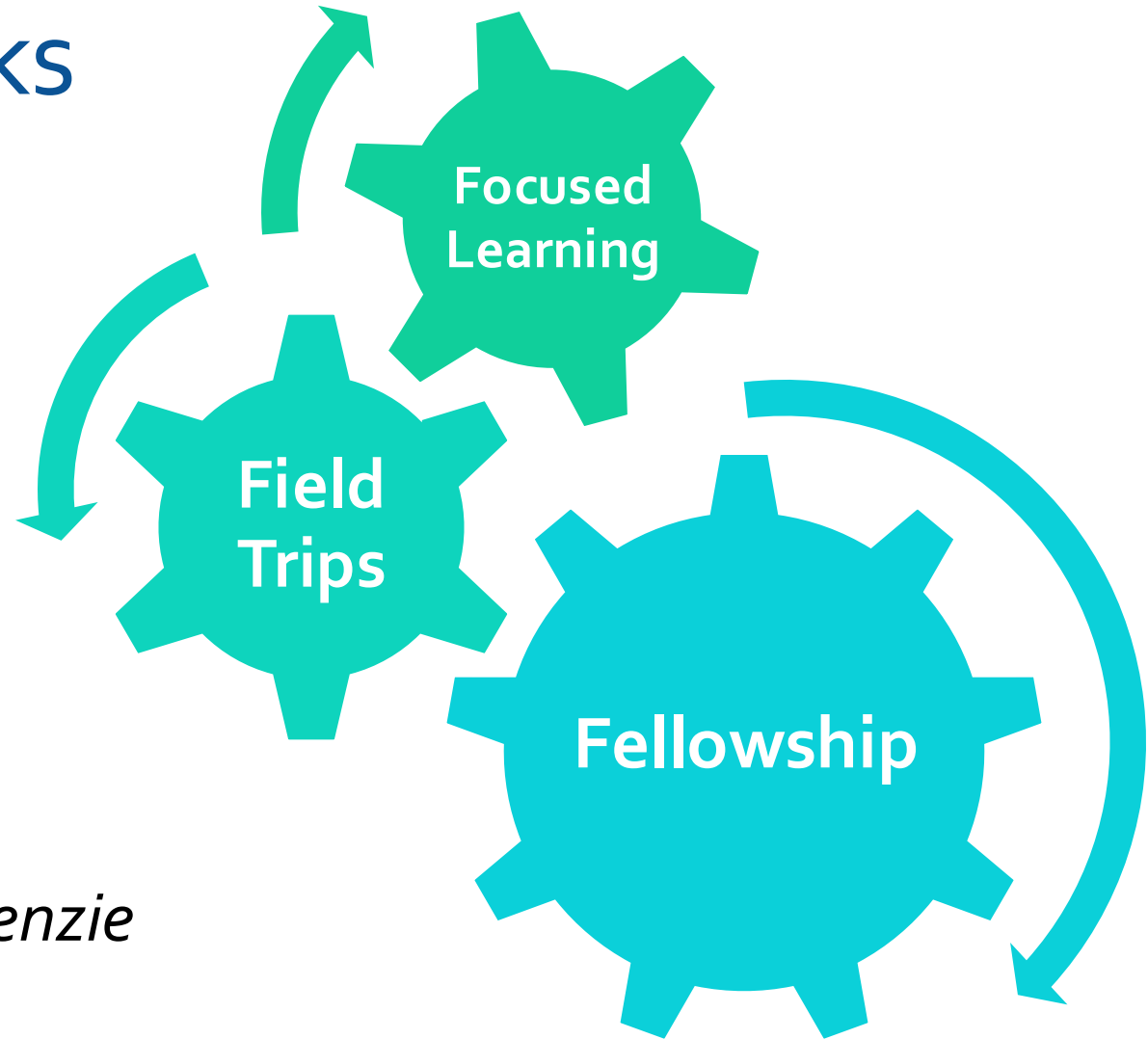
From you!  
Through evaluations and  
testimonials

# PREP Testimonials



<https://agsci.colostate.edu/agbio/prep/testimonials/>

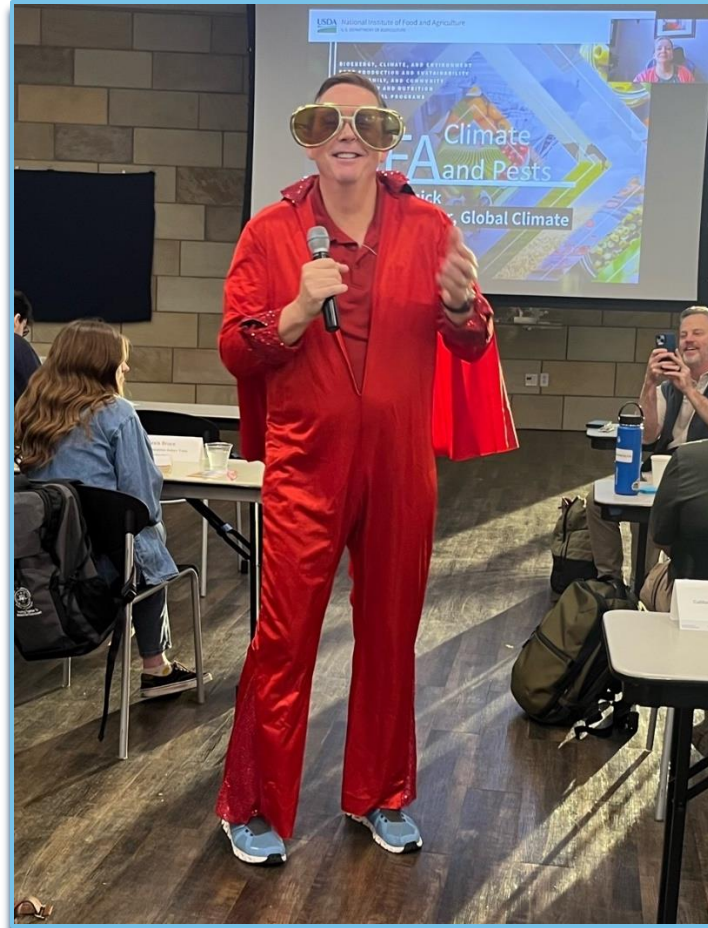
# Why PREP Works



*Everyone is "all in" – Jake MacKenzie*



# Focused Learning





# Field Trips







# Fellowship



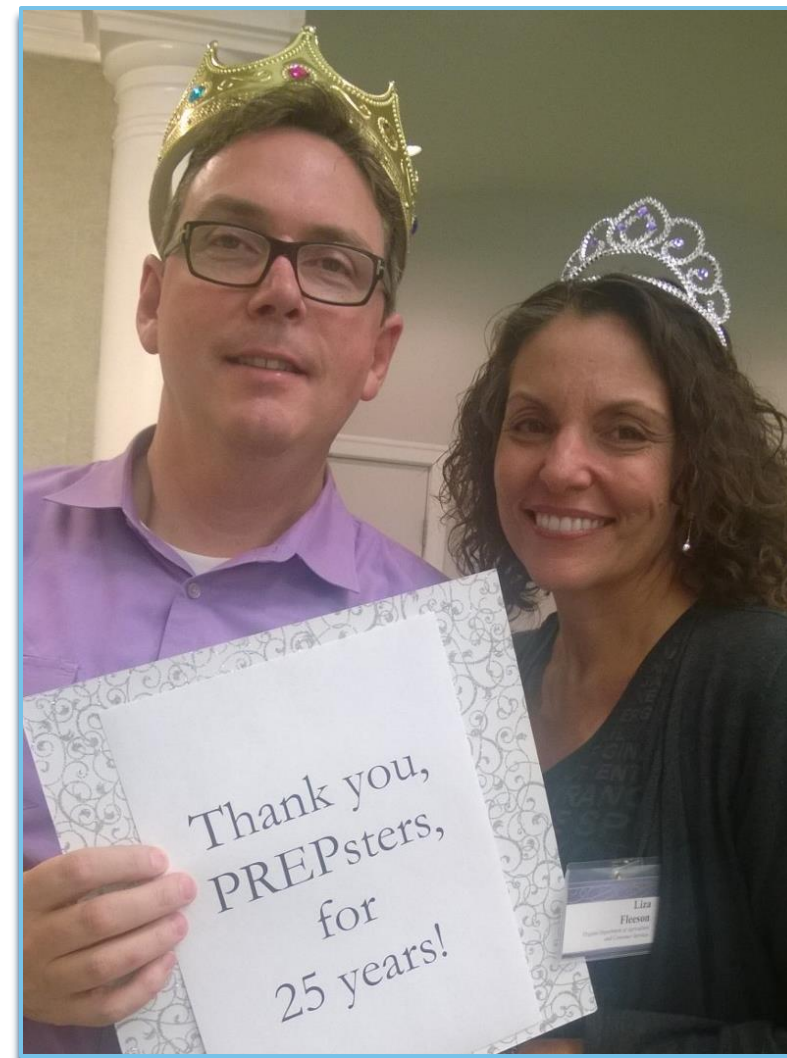


2008



**100<sup>th</sup> PREP Course**  
**Structural Pest Control Issues**  
**Las Cruces, NM**  
**May 2008**  
**Photo at White Sands, NM**

# PREP's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Senior Executive PREP August 2014





2019





# March 2020: PREP Online?





A photograph of four women standing in a grassy park with trees in the background. They are all wearing face masks and holding a long white banner across the middle of the frame. The banner has the text '2020-2021 PREP Online!' written on it in large, bold, black letters. The women are standing from left to right: Suzanne, Lisa, Cindy, and Sarah. Their names are written in yellow text at the bottom of the image.

**2020-2021 PREP Online!**

**Suzanne**

**Lisa**

**Cindy**

**Sarah**





Stephen Baca  
(NM)



Brenda Ball  
(ACIC)



Marie Blankenship  
(EPA)



Lisa Blecker  
(UC)



Matthew Bosiak  
(NH)



Laura Brookshire  
(NC)



James Carpentier  
(NY)



Patti Casey  
(VT)



Alan Cherepon  
(TX)



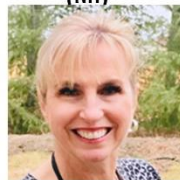
Vivian Chin  
(EPA)



James Cunningham  
(PA)



Derek Entz  
(NV)



Suzanne Forsyth  
(UC)



Kathleen Hall  
(MN)



Marie Hallinen  
(EPA)



Joe Herrera  
(YKA)



Sarah Hirnyck  
(UC)



Jesse Kelly  
(GA)



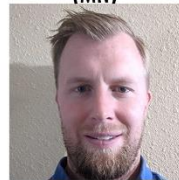
Katie Noland  
(WA)



Ken Potrykus  
(WI)



Ted Puetz  
(ACIC)



Jerry Sauter  
(ND)



Daniel Sheffield  
(AL)



Jennifer Teerlink  
(CA)



Mary Tomlinson  
(ME)



Harris Walters  
(FL)



Nevlin Williams  
(USVI)



Cindy Wire  
(EPA)



Michael Woods  
(IL)

## PREP Pesticides and Water Quality Course

September 27 - 30, 2021

"Together, we still shine online."



**PREP NETWORK**

Pesticide Regulatory Education Program



# **PREP MASK FASHION SHOW**

**STARRING  
THE ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE PREP PARTICIPANTS**



# What's Next for PREP

## 2020 Goals:

- Document PREP's history
- Merge all historical data
- Develop a charter (*under construction*)
- Use an online networking platform
- Collect PREP testimonials

## 2025 Goals:

- Award five-year grant
- Rethink annual call for input to the PREP Program
- Partner with EPA's PIRT Program



## PREP Team



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