

# CATL UPDATE FOR SFIREG

CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING LEADERS (CATL)

Full SFIREG, June 4, 2025

CATL is co-facilitated by:

Jolene Warnke, PSEE Program Manager, Commercial/Noncommercial, U of MN

Kaci Buhl, Professor of Practice, PSEP Director, OSU

Joined today by CATL member and PERC Director, Suzanne Forsyth



**Oregon State**  
University

# Introduction to CATL: Certification & Training Leaders

- CATL started in 2024 after the implementation phase of the 2017 Certification & Training (C&T) Rule began in earnest
- Focused on the certification & training of **pesticide applicators**
- We meet quarterly to discuss topics, followed by a quarterly meeting with EPA.
- We share information, challenges, opportunities, and ideas related to implementing C&T programs for pesticide applicators.
- To get involved, reach out to us! We would love new voices.

MOO  
WHO?



# CATL Heard (Members) Making their voices “Heard”

- Gene Merkl, Mississippi PSEP and President of AAPSE
- Jolene Warnke, Minnesota PSEP and Immediate Past President of AAPSE
- Downen Jocson, Washington PSEP
- Brett Bultemeier, Florida PSEP
- Betsy Danielson, Iowa PSEP
- Dana Beegle, Virginia PSEP
- Wendy Sue Wheeler, Washington PSEP
- Kaci Buhl, Oregon PSEP

- Steve Dwinell, Maine SLA and SFIREG Chair
- Gretchan Paluch, Iowa SLA and AAPCO President
- Lisa Blecker, Colorado PSEP and PREP Director
- Suzanne Forsyth, PERC Director
- Jenny Weber, Arizona PSEP
- Amy Sullivan, Exec. Sec. AAPCO and PIRT Director
- Kim Brown, Tennessee PSEP
- Megan Patterson, Maine SLA

# CATL Roundup of Topics



Workshops for educators on manual/exam development are needed on an ongoing basis due to turnover and changing technologies, every 1-2 years.

- Dan Wixted (NY PSEP) led a successful manual-development workshop in October 2024.



Changes to approved C&T Plans are anticipated as state legislative processes continue. Legislative changes are moving targets for educational programs.



No new cooperative agreements that support C&T implementation

- 'Meetings grant' ended in 2024; it supported CTAG and PACT meetings
- 'Resources grant' diverted in 2024 to NGO farmworker training, PRIA 5

- CTAG = Certification & Training Assessment Group
- PACT = Pesticide Applicator Certification & Training (national meetings)
- PERC = Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (A cooperative agreement)



# PERC Funding Status ~ June 4, 2025

- PERC was terminated by EPA on April 22 and reinstated on May 23.
- PERC is now allowed to spend funds received for years 1-4 of the agreement.
- PERC was notified on May 28 that no additional funding will be provided for year 5.
- This reduces the overall agreement from \$6M to \$4.8M, including funds distributed to AgCBPs.

• AgCBPs = Agricultural Community-Based Projects, a subaward-style program operated by PERC

# CATL's Focus on PERC Funding

PERC has been working to deliver nationally-applicable publications in support of C&T implementation.

- The 3rd Edition of the National Pesticide Applicator Certification **Core Manual & Exam** in English and Spanish
- The next edition of the **Soil Fumigation Manual & Exam**
- A needs-assessment report about training materials for **UAS operator/applicators**

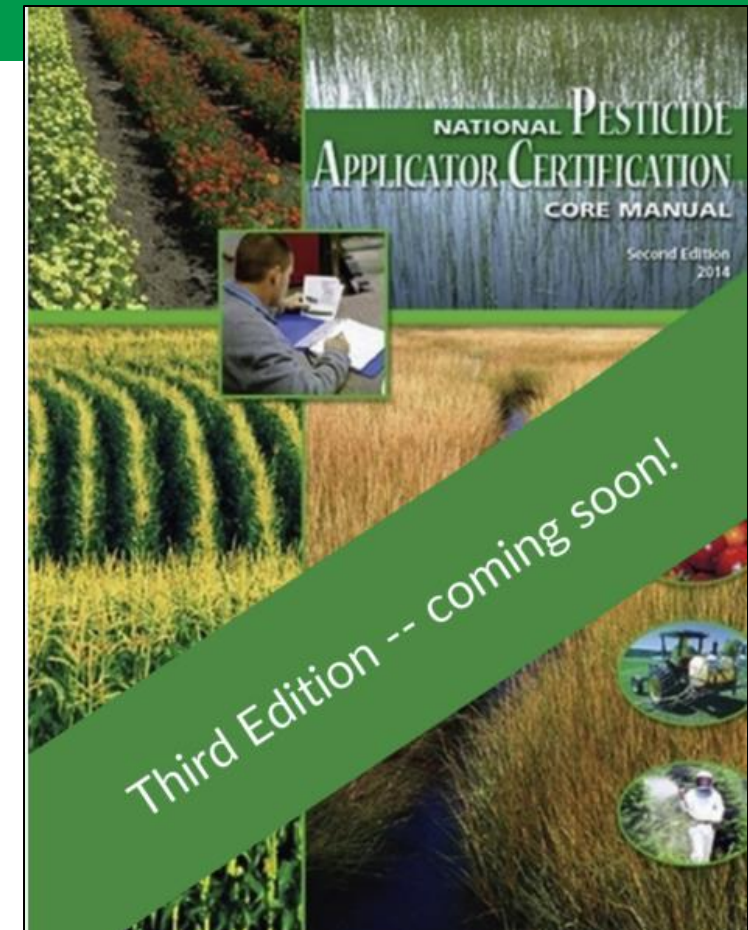


**PERC** Pesticide Educational  
Resources Collaborative



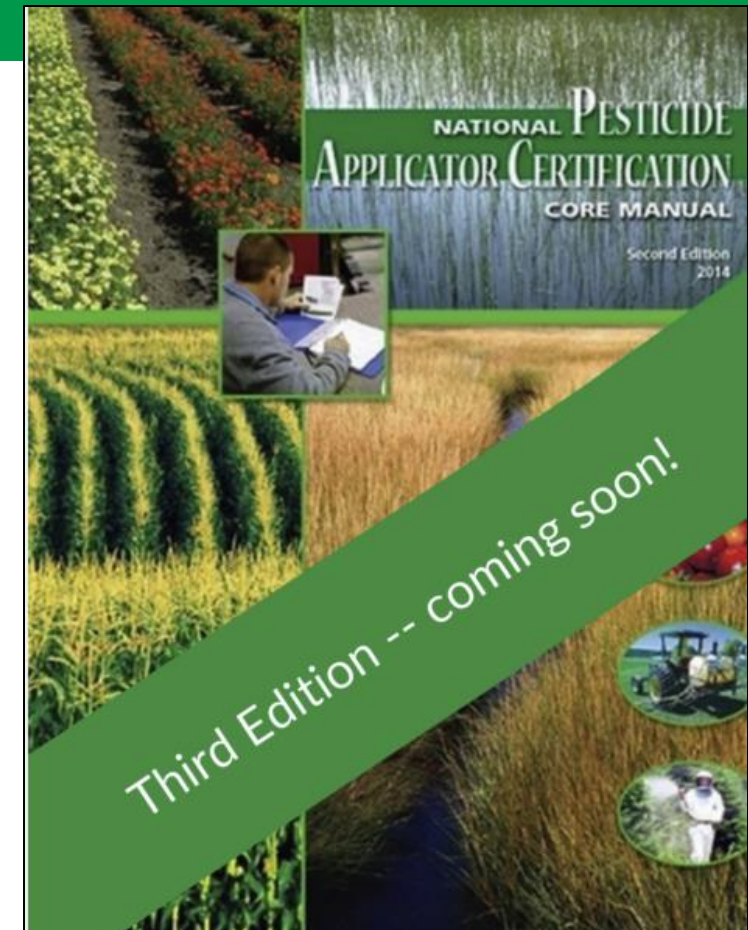
# Core Manual/Exam in English

- 95% complete, and crossing the finish line
- In June, expect an email from PERC offering a free hard copy for inspection. Mailed on request.
- We will provide up to one hard copy to each certifying authority and each PSEP, at no cost.
- Given the lack of PERC funding in year 5, the prices may differ from PERC's previous expectations. More to come.



# Core Manual/Exam: Listening Session

- 14 states plan to adopt the manual/exam “as is”
- 10 states plan to modify the manual/exam and publish it locally, incorporating state information
- 18 states indicated they would consider adopting the new manual/exam after inspecting them
- 11 states indicated they do not plan to use the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Core Manual/Exam from PERC.

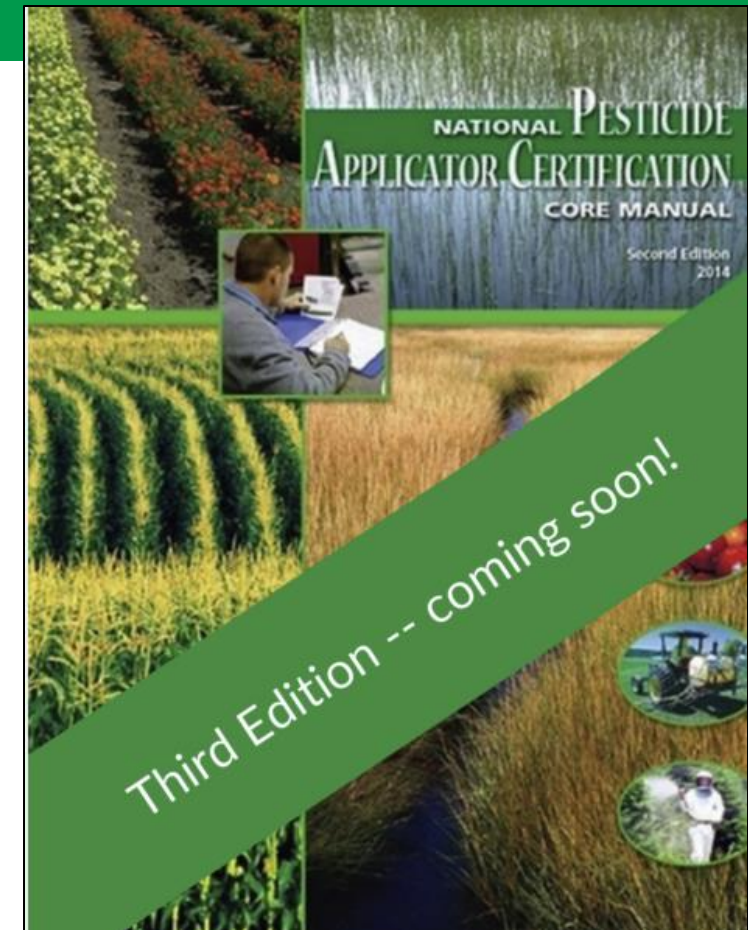




# Core Manual/Exam: Adoption Options

PERC is revising its policies and writing a distribution plan to publish the Core Manual. They anticipate the following options:

- 1) Adopt them “as is” and purchase hard copies from PERC in bulk (SLAs/PSEPs) or singly. No pdf copies will be distributed.
- 2) Modify them to be state-specific and distribute copies any way you like.



# What does it mean when funding is cut or reduced?

- Cooperative agreements are different from contracts.
- Funding is provided in annual or semi-annual “buckets” based on a negotiated work plan.
- If funding is cut or reduced, the workplan is also cut or reduced.
- The funding agency does not have exclusive authority over the products created (manuals, videos, etc.).
- The agreement-holder will look for ways to reduce costs.
- The website hosting fees may no longer be available.

Which planned outputs will be cut?  
Which PERC materials are needed most?







# PERC Projects in-progress related to C&T

How would you rank the  
priority of these projects?

- Core Manual/Exam in Spanish
- Soil Fumigation Manual/Exam (75% done)
- UAS report and/or creating requested outputs: These may include a glossary, a website/collection of training materials, and/or a study guide for UAS applicators/operators with associated exam bank





# PERC Projects in-progress related to WPS

**How would you rank the  
priority of these projects?**

- Updating WPS training videos and power-points to reflect changes to the AEZ and immediate family exemption based on the final rule in December 2024. Seek new EPA approval (numbers), and publish new materials for workers and handlers, in English and Spanish.
- Update compliance-assistance materials to reflect the changes, such as the How-to-Comply Manual, the Handbook for Agricultural Employers, and fact sheets/FAQs on the PERC website.



# Which items should be prioritized?

## C&T

- Core Manual/Exam - Spanish
- Soil Fumigation Manual/Exam
- UAS report and/or requested materials for UAS operators

## WPS

- Revised training materials for workers and handlers
- Revised compliance-assistance materials for agricultural employers

# C&T leaders nationwide rely on the PERC website for FREE resources.

<https://pestideresources.org>

- WPS content for training workers, handlers, agricultural employers, and others: presentations, videos, and FAQs
- YouTube Channel with 175 videos and 1500 subscribers
- Vimeo channel allows anyone to download all 175 videos
- A 64-page “Guide for Meeting Updated Competency Standards for Certified Pesticide Applicators” for certifying authorities and educators tasked with updating content
- An image library and bilingual dictionary for pesticide terms

[Worker Protection Standard](#) > [Full Inventory of WPS Training Materials](#)

# Training Resources for the Worker Protection Standard

Anyone can add new resources by using this [form](#)

If you notice mistakes in the table, please let us know by emailing [PERCsupport@ucdavis.edu](mailto:PERCsupport@ucdavis.edu).



 Search By Keyword

Title ^	Audiences	EPA Approved?	Language	File
Handler Requirements: Storage	Handlers	NA		Video
Handler Requirements and Parts of the Label	Handlers	NA		Video
Handler Requirements: Formulations	Handlers	NA		Video





## For Agricultural Employers

Agricultural employers must comply with the Worker Protection Standard. They include farms, forests, nurseries, greenhouse production facilities, and other sites.

[Visit Page](#)

### Quick Reference Guide to the Worker Protection Standard (8.5 x 14)

HANDOUTS, AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS,  
COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE HANDLER  
EMPLOYERS, LABOR CONTRACTORS, TRAINERS  
OF HANDLERS, TRAINERS OF WORKERS

[View Resource](#)

### Quick Reference Guide to the Worker Protection Standard (8.5 x 11)

HANDOUTS, AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS,  
HANDLERS, TRAINERS OF HANDLERS, TRAINERS  
OF WORKERS

[View Resource](#)

### Summary about WPS Ventilation Criteria

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS, HANDLERS,  
WORKERS

[View Resource](#)

### Fact sheet: Allowed Activities in a Treated Area during the REI

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS, COMMERCIAL  
PESTICIDE HANDLER EMPLOYERS, WORKERS

[View Resource](#)

### Updated WPS Posters for "Central Posting" Areas and Certain Decontamination Sites

POSTERS, AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS,  
COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE HANDLER  
EMPLOYERS, HANDLERS, TRAINERS OF  
HANDLERS, TRAINERS OF WORKERS, WORKERS

[View Resource](#)

### Pesticide Safety Training Requirements

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS, COMMERCIAL  
PESTICIDE HANDLER EMPLOYERS, CROP  
ADVISORS, HANDLERS, LABOR CONTRACTORS,  
TRAINERS OF HANDLERS, TRAINERS OF  
WORKERS, WORKERS

[View Resource](#)

### Posting Warning Signs

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS

[View Resource](#)

### Decontamination Requirements

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS, COMMERCIAL  
PESTICIDE HANDLER EMPLOYERS, CROP  
ADVISORS, HANDLERS, LABOR CONTRACTORS,  
WORKERS

[View Resource](#)

# What are my responsibilities as a labor contractor?

FAQS | FOR LABOR CONTRACTORS

Labor contractors do not have specific responsibilities under the WPS. Agricultural employers and commercial pesticide handler employers are responsible for protecting agricultural workers and pesticide handlers from pesticide poisoning and injury. As a labor contractor you may share some of those responsibilities depending on the circumstances of the **work agreement/contract** with the agricultural or handler employer.

- If you only provide laborers to perform agricultural worker activities, and you don't direct their activities or supervise their work, you do NOT share responsibility under the WPS.
- If you provide laborers to perform pesticide handling activities, and you don't direct their activities or supervise their work, you do NOT share responsibility under the WPS.
- If you provide application services on agricultural establishments, and the handlers are your employees under your supervision, you are a commercial pesticide handler employer.



## Sharing Responsibility with the Employer

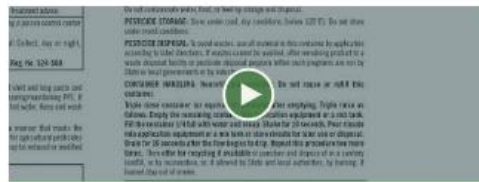
However, your customers might be looking for a labor contractor that can supply workers who already have WPS training. It might be a competitive advantage for you to provide training and training records that meet the agricultural employer's requirements. Similarly, the agricultural employer may ask you to provide some of the required protections, such as decontamination supplies or emergency assistance. Ultimately however, responsibility for compliance with the WPS resides with the agricultural employer or commercial pesticide handler employer.



# WPS Training Videos (short clips)

PERC is making available selected short high-definition (1080P) video clips taken from our [WPS Training Videos](#) for trainers to use in their own projects, in both downloadable (MP4) format and on our [YouTube channel](#).

These video clips do not meet the annual training requirements under the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). They can be used as part of a broader training program, which must be EPA-approved in its entirety.



## Handler Requirements: Storage

CLIPS, HANDLERS

[View Resource](#)



## Handler Requirements: Directions For Use

CLIPS, HANDLERS

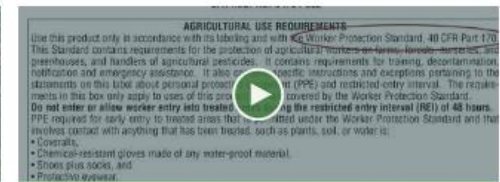
[View Resource](#)



## Handler Requirements: Posting Warning Signs

CLIPS, HANDLERS

[View Resource](#)



## Handler Requirements: Ag. Use Requirements

CLIPS, HANDLERS

[View Resource](#)





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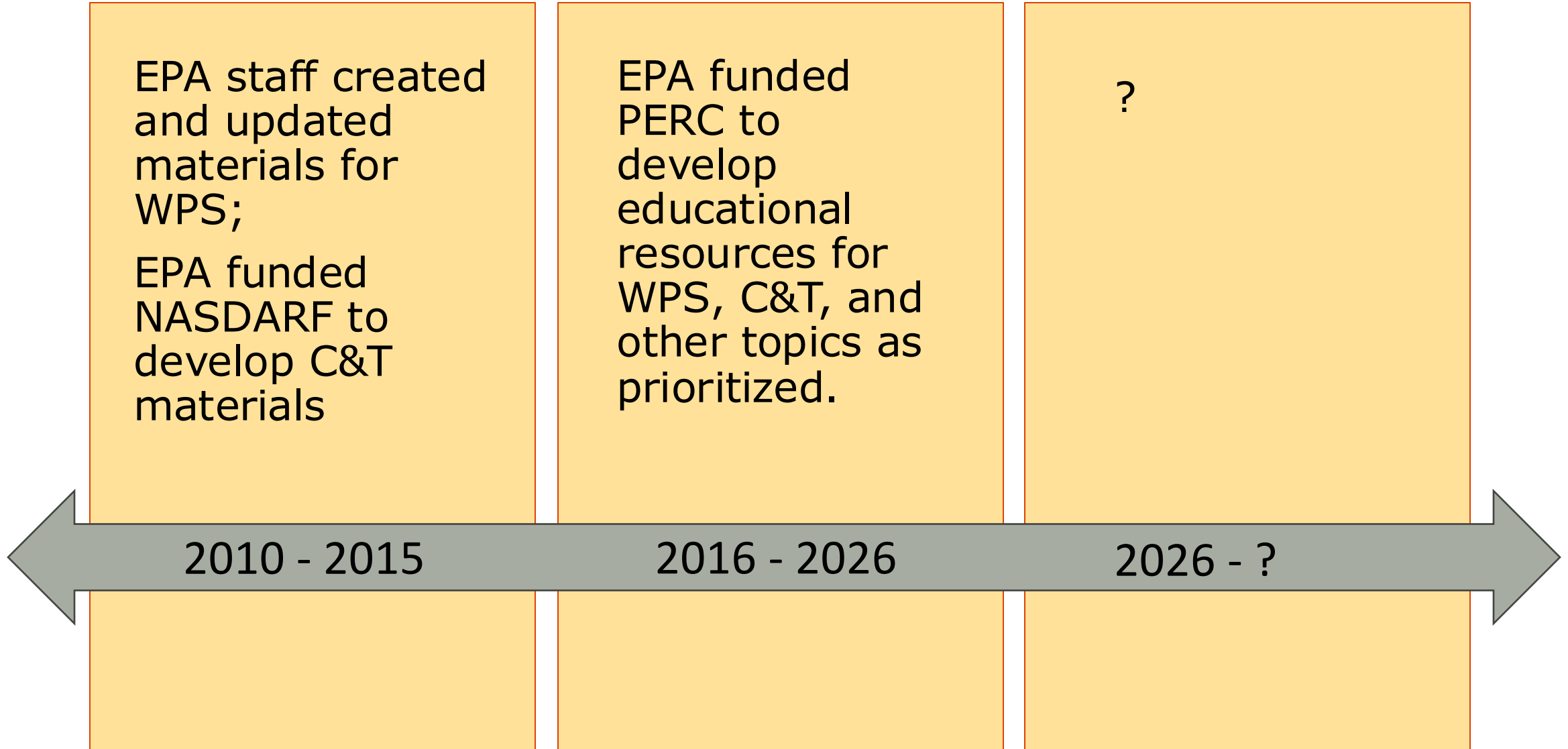


# Federal Trends Impacting Certification & Training

- No new “resources agreement” after PERC ends in 2026.
  - Potential change in access to PERC website, materials
- No new “meetings agreement” since 2024 for CTAG, PACT.
- University budgets constricting; we’re doing more with less.
- NIOSH Ag Centers closing in September. They are often PSEP partners in content development/delivery.
- The Ag Health Study is often referenced in training content, and its funding is uncertain, from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

# How to educational resources get made

for WPS, pesticide applicators, and other pesticide topics?

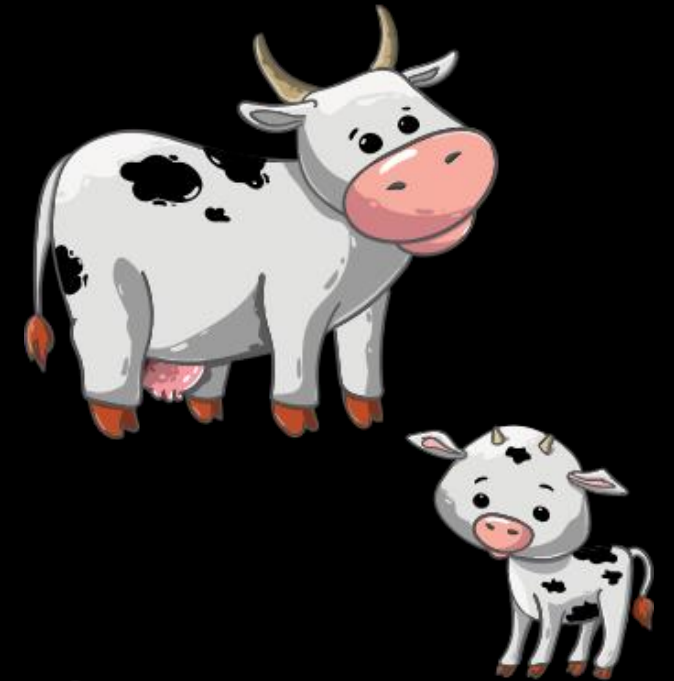


# QUESTIONS?

## CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING LEADERS (CATL)

Interested in CATL involvement?

- Jolene Warnke: [jwarnke@umn.edu](mailto:jwarnke@umn.edu)
- Kaci Buhl: [buhlk@oregonstate.edu](mailto:buhlk@oregonstate.edu)



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Presented by:

Kaci Buhl, Professor of Practice, PSEP Director, Oregon State University



**Oregon State  
University**