

REGION 4 SFIREG REPORT

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The Region 4 Fall Pre-SFIREG meeting was held virtually on December 2, 2025, via Teams. All states in the Region (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) were in attendance, and EPA regional leadership staff were in attendance as well. At this time, it is unknown whether the 2026 Spring Pre-SFIREG meeting will be held virtually or in person.

UPDATES GIVEN BY EPA:

- EPA Region 4 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division Update - *Keriema Newman, EPA Region 4*
- EPA Region 4 Pesticides Programmatic Update - *Richard Corbett, EPA Region 4*
- EPA Region 4 Pesticides Enforcement Update - *Alan Annicella, EPA Region 4*
- Grants/QA Update - *Richard Corbett, EPA Region 4*
- Pesticide Registration/Endangered Species Update - *Jenny Wren, EPA Region 4*
- WPS Update - *Michelle Diaz Laboy, EPA Region 4*
- Certification and Training Update - *Richard Corbett, EPA Region 4*

UPDATES GIVEN BY SLA:

- SFIREG/POM/EQI/ESI Update - *Amy Brown, FDACS*
- AAPCO Update - *Kelly Friend, FDACS*
- ASPCRO Update - *John Pitcock, KDA*
- Aquatic Manual Development Update - *Brett Bultemeier, University of Florida*

During the meeting, each state presented items of note in their state from the standard state reporting form and specified any areas where they had concerns and/or required further detail regarding the SFIREG questions. During this session, discussions took place in tandem with EPA. Primary topics of concern needing to be taken forward to the Region and Headquarters among the Region 4 states were program/grant funding, specifically the option/ability for forward funding in region 4 like is done in most and/or all other regions; state level conservation programs, specifically more detail/information on what direction EPA is headed with this and what it will entail on the part of the states; certification and training manual development; specifically for more grants and funding to support more manual development that utilizes a similar approach/model in the developmental framework as that used in the development of the Aquatic Manual.

STATE RESPONSES TO SFIREG QUESTIONS

Cooperative Agreement Guidance:

If the Office of Program Support (OPS) can only advocate for a few updates to the FIFRA Cooperative Agreement Guidance next year, what is the one, most important thing SLAs would want them to advocate for in an update? If nothing stands out, then you can indicate that as well.

Georgia: When submitting modifications of EPA Certification Plans it would be helpful to have the same response time to complete EPA's changes as it took for EPA to review. (Example: If it takes EPA 4 months to review changes then the state should be given 4 months to complete changes EPA requires to be approved and deadline extended accordingly.) Now it seems SLA's get 4 weeks to complete EPA required updates placing strain on the SLA with limited resources and budget cuts. SLA's being able to obtain historical bulletins through Bulletin live 2 for possible administrative actions.

South Carolina: Credit for off-site compliance monitoring for SLAs.

Notification to SLAs when General Use Pesticides Reclassified to RUP:

Do SLAs use this RUP Report?

Alabama: We will now that we know about it.

Florida: Florida is aware of the report.

Georgia: Yes, but some uncertainty about accuracy with new products being added and delayed updates.

Mississippi: No.

South Carolina: No.

Tennessee: Yes, TN uses the report.

Would direct notification of RUP status change be useful to SLAs?

Alabama: Yes.

Florida: Yes, such notification would be beneficial.

Georgia: This would be very helpful. It seems that the RUP Report does not have the most up to date information, and we use information like this in the field when regulating pesticide use.

Mississippi: Possibly.

North Carolina: Yes.

South Carolina: Yes.

Tennessee: Yes.

Bilingual Labeling Frequently Asked Questions:

Do SLAs have any additional questions/concerns about this information resource?

Alabama: None at this time.

Mississippi: No.

South Carolina: None at this time.

Tennessee: At present, no.

State-Level Conservation Programs accepted as an EPA-Qualified Conservation Program:

Would SLAs be willing to provide input in reviewing and evaluating conservation programs in their states for the purpose of meeting ESA label requirements in conjunction with EPA?

Alabama: No.

Florida: Florida has slight concerns with the potential workload this would create and also our ability to effectively vet these programs. Florida would like to know if its conservation program in the Office of Ag Water Policy in the Florida Dept of Agriculture will be accepted by EPA.

Mississippi: Not applicable to MS.

North Carolina: I would be interested in reviewing programs that apply to EPA if the conservation program is active in North Carolina. Even if we do not have the resources to perform comprehensive reviews on each conservation program that applies, it is important that the states be given the opportunity to review conservation programs and provide state-level context, information, or concerns on each program prior to EPA making a decision.

South Carolina: Unable to commit at this time.

Tennessee: At present, TN does not have the additional resources to assist with this effort.

PALM (Pesticide App for Label Mitigations):

Have your state applicators been utilizing the new PALM (Pesticide App for Label Mitigations) mobile-friendly webpage for mitigation determinations?

Have you found any issues that need to be addressed?

Any suggestions for improvements?

Alabama: Not known. No issues. No suggestions.

Florida: FDACS and other pesticide educators are promoting its use in the state. FDACS has also listed the tool on our ESA website; [FDACS ESA Website](#). No issues have been brought to our attention. It would be helpful to some growers if this application was made available in an off-line capacity. As it currently stands, users will still require an active internet connection to use this resource.

Georgia: Still in the process of outreach and making its availability known to applicators, planning to work more education into upcoming winter production meetings with cooperative extension partners. No issues. Simplify communications slightly.

Mississippi: Unknown.

North Carolina: Given the new nature of the tool, as well as few products on the market with ESA mitigations, we have not heard of widespread use of PALM by pesticide applicators in NC. None identified at this time. NC is represented on the SFIREG ESI Working Committee, which provides an additional forum for providing feedback and suggestions as concerns arise.

South Carolina: Not yet to all three.

Tennessee: Very little. No issues. No suggestions.

Pesticides in Water:

Are SLAs using EPA's Pesticide in Water Calculator (PWC)?

If so, how do they use it for identifying pesticides of concern or pesticides of interest?

Alabama: No.

Florida: Florida uses the PWC in its NAI and SNU risk assessment reviews to see if the label directions and mitigations are sufficient to address expected concentrations in waters. If exceedances are expected, then additional mitigations or studies may be necessary before state registration. Modeling is not used for determination of POI's and POC's. Long term trends from detections and exceedances from surface and ground water testing are used to place active ingredients in these categories.

Mississippi: Not currently.

North Carolina: North Carolina is not using PWC.

Tennessee: TN is not using the Pesticide in Water Calculator.

PFAS and Pesticides:

Are there states who monitor TFA in groundwater or surface waters?

If yes, can you share your findings about the potential contribution of pesticides in producing TFA?

Alabama: No for Alabama.

Mississippi: No.

North Carolina: To the knowledge of SPCPD, there is no state-led monitoring for TFA in groundwater or surface water in NC. University labs (NCSU) have done limited testing (<https://www.cfpua.org/835/PFPRA-and-other-UltraShort-Chain-PFAS>) in response to known point sources of PFAS in the state.

Tennessee: TN does not.

Does your state require registration of pesticide adjuvants?

Alabama: Alabama does not.

Florida: No.

Tennessee: Yes.

Pesticide Treated Seed:

Are SLAs tracking types and amounts of treated seeds that are sold, planted, or disposed of in their state?

Alabama: Alabama does not.

Florida: No to all three.

Mississippi: No.

North Carolina: No.

Tennessee: TN tracks the amount sold but not planted or disposed of.

Pesticide Registration Decisions:

Are there any pending or upcoming registration decisions that are of particular interest or importance to your state?

Florida: Yes, imidacloprid and the neonicotinoids.

Georgia: Rodenticides/sulfuryl fluoride, Dicamba, 2,4-D, Glyphosate.

Mississippi: Dicamba.

South Carolina: Dicamba.

New and Ongoing Issues:

Are there any new or ongoing issues that might develop into White Papers or Issue Papers?

South Carolina: Inconsistent and unenforceable label language on reapplication of 2,4D and Dicamba products on turf settings.

STATE SUMMARIES SUBMITTED FOR THE PRE-SFIREG MEETING, FALL 2025

ALABAMA:

BUDGET: No cuts or shortfalls.

STAFFING: Ag Compliance side (non-structural): After the retirement of Field Supervisor Ray Marler on January 1, 2025, we have promoted Dustin Frachiseur. Following the retirement of Field Supervisor Vernon Wiggings on October 1, 2025, we have promoted Ken Dunn. Therefore, we have two inspector vacancies to fill. We have two clerical vacancies: one in Registration and one in Certification and Training.

SIGNIFICANT CASES/ISSUES w/ SIGNIFICANT PENALTIES: 1) The Professional Services Section for the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries (ADAI) have been engaging in the non-compliance investigations of a large Alabama based Company since FY 2023. The investigation led ADAI and the Structural Pest Control Company (Company) to a Settlement or Consent Order for multiple label violations and multiple violations of Professional Service Laws & Regulations. The Company failed to comply with the Settlement as written and agreed upon. Prior to taking additional regulatory action, the Company was found to be operating without properly certified operators and the Company failed to comply with their financial responsibilities in possessing and maintaining liability insurance. August 5th, 2025, ADAI issued a Cease & Desist Order until all financial and certified operator responsibilities were in place. Since the issuance of the Cease & Desist Order, the Company has not complied, but have shut down their operations and are no longer performing Structural Pest Control work. The Company was a large, multi-million-dollar corporation with a customer base estimated somewhere around 10,000 to 16,000 accounts with at least 8,000 termite contracts. To date, our records indicate that the Company has made no efforts in obtaining a Professional Service permit; therefore, it appears that the Company has chosen to no longer engage in Structural Pest Control work. It also appears that the Company has closed the doors at their office location(s) and are no longer engaging in business. The Department is investigating the matter but have no further information to provide currently. It appears no other company has or is in the process of acquiring the Company, or that the Company plans to reopen. It is likely the fact there will be no recovery, and that the Company is out of business by default with no known options, considerations, or alternatives. Thousands of Alabama consumers may need to consider the Professional Services of another Structural Pest Control company due to the poor business practices of the Company. Since the last reporting on this company, the owner of the company passed away. ADAI and the Alabama Attorney General's Office are processing this case through the Jefferson County Courts of Alabama for an out-of-business declaration so that there's some finalization in the matters of this case. Court date is scheduled for November 20, 2025.

2) In another case, ADAI has found an Illegal and Non-Certified Company soliciting Structural Pest Control work. ADAI has found the Company is being managed or operated by an individual previously affiliated with a pest control company where ADAI pursued revocation of all permits and licenses all the way through the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals maintained the position to stay with the revocation, favoring ADAI's position. The individual currently engaging in Structural Pest Control is one of the individual characters involved in the case matters of the revoked and now-defunct company. ADAI already possesses documentation that proves illegal activities are and have

been occurring. ADAI and the Alabama Attorney General's Office are planning to file an injunction and process the case through the court system to shut down the illegal operator and his business.

STRUCTURAL: Both aforementioned items 1 and 2 are significant structural cases. Professional & Regulatory Services are investigating and pursuing illegal operators on a large scale while making sure there are no delays investigating Consumer Complaints and Neutral Investigations. Professional Services plans to increase in the number of Pesticide Use Investigations. ADAI continues to monitor and take regulatory action on non-permitted/non-certified Professional Service operators in the Structural and Horticultural work being performed in Alabama. ADAI continues to monitor and take regulatory action on Professional Service companies performing Structural and Horticultural work in Alabama that is not in compliance with label requirements including but not limited to the proper use of PPE.

C&T: ADAI is working to make the necessary changes to begin implementation of the approved plan.

WPS: Status Quo.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: ADAI keeps three bulletins on the website updated each month showing the affected areas of the state and a table with pesticide AI/Product(s) with use limitations for the indicated areas on the map.

PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL: ADAI hosted two pesticide collections in FY2025: Madison, AL (32,992 lbs.) and Headland, AL (63,903 lbs.) for a combined total of 96,895 lbs. of chemicals collected for disposal.

CONTAINER RECYCLING: ADAI has a new contractor (E2A Environmental Services) in place who has been running routes in the state. The collection total for FY2025 was 118,360 lbs.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES: Still working on new online application to handle day to day business. The system will include product registration, certification, and business licensing. We will also be moving to electronic inspections at this time.

PESTICIDE REGISTRATION: ADAI has gone live with the Ag Enterprise pesticide product registration database/portal. ADAI plans to hire for the vacancy in Product Registration soon.

FLORIDA:

BUDGET: We hope that Region 4 can provide an update on when we can expect funding for this fiscal year. We have heard that other Regions received funding prior to the shutdown.

STAFFING: Bureau of Licensing and Enforcement: Hiring is underway for the vacant Manager I position over the Pesticide Criminal History section.

Bureau of Agricultural Environmental Laboratories: Hiring is underway for the vacant Chemist Specialist/Deputy Quality Assurance Officer in the Quality Assurance section.

Bureau of Scientific Evaluation and Technical Assistance. Hiring is underway for the vacant Regulatory Specialist in the Pesticide Registration Review Section.

LEGISLATIVE/RULES: Statutory changes went into effect July 1, 2025, for Ch. 482 & Ch. 487, Florida Statutes (F.S.) granting the Department the authority to revoke, suspend, or deny a license based on a federal violation of Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 14a and/or 14b. Additional legislative changes to Ch. 482 & 487, F.S. included authority to take action on individuals cheating on pesticide exams or falsifying applications.

Statutory changes went into effect July 1, 2025, for Ch. 388, F.S. regarding mosquito control administration.

STRUCTURAL: A pest control company was cited for selling services door to door in violation of Chapter 482, F.S. The ID card holders were employees of another company who is not licensed to conduct pest control in Florida. The company was assessed an Administrative Fine of \$606,000.

C&T: Rule changes to 5E-13, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) are being drafted for mosquito control. Will be starting on 5E-9, F.A.C. and 5E-14, F.A.C. rule changes in the next few months. We have also started planning how to move forward with the creation of a video that will be provided to all currently certified individuals to ensure exposure to the C&T changes upon new/renewal certification.

WPS: FDACS Worker Safety Program participated in and/or organized a total of 24 outreach events, compiling 53 hours of education, and reaching more than 608 participants from a variety of stakeholder interests. Additionally, a total of 49 Train the Trainer certifications were administered, and 12 duplicates were processed. FDACS has prioritized outreach efforts to enhance compliance with the WPS. Key initiatives include:

- Distribution of Educational Materials: Continues to distribute printed materials and audiovisual resources (DVDs) in English, Spanish, and Creole. (More than 350 materials).
- Online Training Programs: This program has become a primary resource for Train The Trainer (TTT) certification, benefiting over 700 participants. Additionally, FDACS published a course on "Respiratory Protection" and WPS requirements. Translation into Spanish language is completed and just waiting on IT personal to upload it to University of Florida Platform. This resource will expand accessibility to handlers.
- Coordination with Advocacy Organizations: FDACS works with groups like the Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) and Farmworker Advocacy Organizations (FWAF) and other advocacy groups. Resources are distributed in multiple languages to support farmworker families.
- Focus on Heat Illness Prevention: Outreach activities now emphasize preventing heat-related illnesses during pesticide application or PPE use.
- Compliance Assistance: FDACS has increased "Compliance Assistant" activities in coordination with its enforcement section.
- Updates to Training Materials: FDACS in coordination with UF/IFAS Extension Services started the revisions to EPA approved TTT training materials and curriculum and their translation into Spanish. Once material becomes updated, it will be re-summitted to EPA for approval. Additionally, updated information about AEZ has been posted at FDACS website. <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Agricultural-Worker-Safety-FAQ>.

Distribution of brochures and update information are part of live and/or online TTT programs.

These efforts demonstrate FDACS's commitment to improving worker safety and compliance through education, resource distribution, and interagency collaboration.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Staff continue to follow the EPA related ESA materials as they are made available for review. Staff gave ESA related presentations to FDACS's Division of Plant Industry and two virtual presentations at the most recent PREP course in Ft. Collins, CO. FDACS continues to engage on ESA issues at the national level, with staff representing the Department at the SFIREG Joint Working Committee (JWC) in Grand Rapids, MI. FDACS recently made updates to our ESA and Pesticides website, adding links to helpful presentations and EPA's PALM application.

WATER QUALITY: No new surface or groundwater issues.

PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL: Funding was received by the legislature to support the program this fiscal year.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS/ INITIATIVES: FDACS is providing ongoing mosquito control technical support to counties experiencing increased dengue infections this past summer to include encouraging USDA mosquito resistance support and mosquito pool testing. A review of current techniques, methodologies, and EPA/State registered pesticides used to control the disease vectoring mosquitoes.

PESTICIDE REGISTRATION: Florida has approximately 16,076 pesticide brands registered. Review of registration requests: FDACS continued to review product brand registration requests, assuring compliance with statutes. Specific review activities are explained below. Review of marketplace labels: FDACS continued to review new pesticide labels and changes on existing product brand labels. Where problems were found that violated Florida pesticide laws and rules, FDACS notified the registrants and EPA. Coordinate review of special registrations: This included 6 NAIs. These registrations were reviewed by the Department and other affected state agencies through the Pesticide Registration Evaluation Committee. The Committee convened on 3 occasions. The Registration Review Section also reviewed and revised 5 existing SLNs and submitted for EPA review. FDACS also received approval for a specific section 18 request. This section 18 is for product Belay and allows its use on 3–5-year-old citrus trees. In addition to this, a specific section 18 request was sent for use of aldicarb on citrus. FDACS also acknowledged receipt for three requests that were exempt from review by the PREC due to the size of the trials.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT NEWS: The Bureau of Licensing and Enforcement is almost ready to move the newly built Aircraft Registration database to production. This is expected to go live in early to mid-December. Additionally, next in the queue for development is the Pesticide Use Permitting System (PUPS) and the new Pesticide Registration Tracking System (RTS).

The Bureau of Agricultural Environmental Laboratories' LABWORKS Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) was upgraded to version 7.2 in early October 2025.

GEORGIA:

BUDGET: Agency budget reduction.

STAFFING: Compliance program manager and Structural Pest inspector vacancy.

LEGISLATIVE/RULES: Structural Pest Control Commission is proposing rule amendments.

SIGNIFICANT CASES/ISSUES w/ SIGNIFICANT PENALTIES: Unlicensed pest control solicitors. GDA press release to address the issue.

C&T: Finally received draft guidance for modifying C&T Plans. GA will review and provide comments by the 12/15 deadline.

MISSISSIPPI:

BUDGET: Flat budget this year.

STAFFING: Currently fully staffed.

STRUCTURAL: Dr. Santos Portugal, MSU Assistant Extension Professor of Urban Entomology, is working with the North America Termite Survey group trapping for Formosan subterranean termites and updating their distribution map. As we find infested counties, we plan to update our Formosan Subterranean Termite Quarantine on regulated areas.

C&T: Posted 2025 reporting data to CPARD on 11/18/2025.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Randy Boyle has been chosen for a national panel to develop inspection guidance.

PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL: One event in Tunica County scheduled for December.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES: MSU is taking bids for a wind tunnel for drift modeling and has also released a set of drone operator training videos at <https://www.aai.msstate.edu/spray-drone-videos>.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT NEWS: BPI Staff met with EPA Ag Advisor Turner Bridgforth and R4 Administrator Kevin McOmer recently.

NORTH CAROLINA:

STAFFING: We currently have 11 vacant positions.

STRUCTURAL: A Structural Pest Control Committee meeting was held on July 9th, 2025, and 10 Settlement Agreements were approved with a total penalty amount of \$22,400.

All C&T Plan related Rules Revisions were published with an effective date of February 1, 2025. Our SPC Team performed 7 outreach presentations throughout North Carolina in May 2025. We also published all revisions with explanations on our web site along with email notifications and hard copy notifications were included with license renewal packets that were mailed by May 1, 2025. Our Field Team began enforcement of the revised Rules on July 1, 2025. We also have published the

PERC training video for Non-Certified Applicators (Registered Technicians in N.C.) on our web site for the required annual training requirement for Non-Certified Applicators. There is also a generic "Daily Equipment Checklist" form on our web site to assist N.C. PMP's in complying with the new Rules regarding properly maintaining pesticide application equipment before each day of use.

We have begun the process of the mandated Periodic Review of existing Rules for State Agencies. The Structural Pest Control Rules will be presented at the next Structural Pest Control Committee meeting on December 11, 2025. The filing deadline is July 20, 2026.

We still currently have 3 vacant Inspector positions and recently began recruitment for the Wake County (Raleigh) area position.

C&T: With all the updated regulations now implemented and being enforced by our field staff, we are continuing to get the word out to the public through inspector visits and outreach events. NCSU is very close to releasing the revised Core manual, but until it's released, the new Regulations are being bundled with the existing Core manual so that we could begin certifying people under the New State Plan. All our exams now include all required content, both Commercial & Private, and anyone certified since 7/1/2025 is certified under the new State Plan. We are in the process of bringing everyone certified prior to 7/1/25 up to the new standards.

We continue to struggle with vacancies in the Licensing Unit, with an ongoing vacancy in 1 of our 2 Pesticide Certification Specialists, but our Pesticide Administrative Associate vacancy was finally filled.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The SPCPD Environmental Toxicologist is an active member of the SFIREG Endangered Species Strategy Implementation Working Committee, which focuses on implementation of EPA's ESA strategies for pesticides, which includes runoff and erosion mitigation measures. Training has been provided to SPCPD field staff on the ESA Pesticide Strategies and resources for training and compliance are provided as needed. The SPCPD Environmental Toxicologist participates in monthly calls with PSEPs to discuss ongoing training resources and needs. SPCPD staff continue to review draft biological evaluations for active ingredients as they are released, as well as reviewing any new restrictions in the state using Bulletins Live! Two.

WATER QUALITY: NCSU SPCPD staff checked the National Water Quality Monitoring Council's Water Quality Portal for any data collected from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. During that period, samples were collected from 3 different sites and were analyzed for 143 different pesticides. Fifty-five active ingredients or their metabolites were detected, but all detections were below the EPA aquatic life benchmarks except for imidacloprid, fipronil, and trans-permethrin.

Thirty-eight samples exceeded the imidacloprid chronic benchmark for aquatic invertebrates (10 ng/L) but were below the acute benchmarks for aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates. Detected levels of imidacloprid range from 14.0 to 97.6 ng/L.

One sample detected 18.4 ng/L of fipronil, which exceeds the fipronil chronic benchmark for aquatic invertebrates (11 ng/L) but is below the acute benchmark for aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates.

One sample contained a detectable amount (6.63 ng/L) of trans-permethrin. There is no benchmark specifically for the trans isomer of permethrin. The sampled level exceeds the chronic (4.2 ng/L) and acute (3.3 ng/L) benchmarks for aquatic invertebrates for permethrin but is below the benchmark for aquatic vertebrates.

The SPCPD Drinking Water Survey for triazine herbicides and breakdown chemicals was available in North Carolina for farmers during this period. Well testing information is sent to newly certified private applicators and recertifying private applicators as a part of their renewal application. As a result, from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, 506 drinking water well survey letters and 59 well water sample collection kits were mailed. During the reporting period, 46 well samples were analyzed by the NCDA&CS Food & Drug Protection Division laboratory with an atrazine immunoassay test kit using EPA SW-846 method #4670 for drinking water. All results were non-detect for triazine herbicides and associated breakdown products, except for one which had a detection of 0.085 parts per billion. Even though this result is well below the maximum contaminant level of 3 parts per billion, a follow-up sample has been taken by a pesticide inspector, and we are awaiting the results.

PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL: During FY25, NC's Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program (PDAP) provided over 130 contractor-assisted collection events and collected 190,021 pounds of pesticides - down from the previous FY due to limited collections because of budget constraints and contract issues – but still the 8th highest FY total in PDAP history. Despite these setbacks (and the loss of a team member), the PDAP was still able, and continues, to respond to requests from Hurricane Helene (Sept 2024 - ongoing), and is still averaging over 211,000 pounds per fiscal year over the past 5 years.

Outreach efforts include TPSA (The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance) and the (North and South) Carolina Recycling Association (CRA) – Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Council. The PDAP remains active in the TPSA Membership Committee, TPSA Conference Committee, and serves on the Disposal/Recycling Committee for TPSA and presented at the 2025 Conference in early February 2025. Involvement with TPSA assists the PDAP with many topics relative to disposal issues nationwide and in NC. The PDAP also helped organize and participated in an HHW Workshop for the recently completed 2025 CRA Conference in March 2025 with the PDAP present as part of a panel discussion on 'Tricky Trash' along with other state-wide HHW programs, NC County representatives, State and County regulatory agencies and recycling and HazMat businesses. PDAP continues to serve as HHW Council core-members and current Council President. The partnership with the HHW Council is vital as pesticides are an integral part of the material brought to HHW events and NC HHW interest remains strong as the number of HHW programs throughout the state continues to increase.

CONTAINER RECYCLING: The Pesticide Container Recycling Program currently has approximately 208 sites in NC where farmers and commercial applicators can recycle plastic pesticide containers that don't exceed 55 gallons in size. The containers were collected and granulated by two companies: Ag Plastic Solutions was the primary contractor in the first half of the reporting period, and EcoAg Inc. was awarded the contract during the second half of the reporting period. Collected materials are processed and used to make industrial products. During the reporting period, 199,391 pounds of material were collected, thereby recycling waste which would otherwise pose a risk of

contamination to surface and ground water, in addition to taking up landfill space. Since its inception in 1995, over 11.6 million pounds of plastic pesticide containers have been recycled in North Carolina. Pesticide Inspector II's conducted audits of 73 county pesticide container recycling sites in 44 counties from October 2024 through September 2025, inspecting each site for cleanliness and number of containers, protection from rain, and working with county personnel on any issues found. During the reporting period, three grant proposals were received and awarded for a total of \$10,328. Funds were awarded to Hyde and Washington Counties for the purpose of moving collection sites to locations where they can be better monitored. Duplin County was awarded a grant to provide jet rinse nozzles and education for all private applicators in the county.

PESTICIDE REGISTRATION: SLNs Issued: Sniper Insecticide: Control/suppression of insects, especially balsam woolly adelgid and spruce spider mite, in Christmas trees.

Command 3ME Herbicide: For control of resistant Italian ryegrass in fallow fields.

Emergency Exemptions Issued: Isomate GRB Z: Mating disruptor used to control grape root borer in vineyards.

New Registration System: Our new registration is working well enough for us to conduct our daily activities. But bugs continue to pop-up and system modifications continue to be made. Nonetheless, it is an improvement over our previous 1970s system.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT NEWS: SPCPD successfully received a subaward for a 5-year grant to respond to impacts from Hurricane Helene in 39 NC counties designated by FEMA. The subaward will be used for collection and disposal of unwanted or unusable pesticide products, site evaluation, equipment and supplies for collection and response activities, and training for field staff. The sub-award is part of an EPA grant given to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and will run from October 2025 through September 2030.

SOUTH CAROLINA:

BUDGET: DPR continues to operate with university-wide restrictions. Travel and expenses require multiple levels of approval, even though Departmental revenue remains steady.

STAFFING: DPR filled a lab chemist position after a year vacancy. Currently DPR is filling an Investigator and Field Supervisor position. Candidates have been selected for both positions – awaiting HR approval. 1 additional Investigator position will be filled in 2026.

LEGISLATIVE/RULES: No planned modifications. SC faced two proposed pieces of legislation. One will create an exemption to the local ordinance ban for SGARs, allowing municipalities to regulate them locally. The other bill requires ALL (no exemptions) persons applying barrier mosquito applications to be licensed with the DPR for free. DPR does not support either of the bills. We anticipate seeing both bills in the upcoming session.

SIGNIFICANT CASES/ISSUES w/ SIGNIFICANT PENALTIES: The most frequent violations resulting in significant civil penalties are unlicensed commercial turf & ornamental operations performing applications of general-use and restricted-use pesticides, persons using pesticides not in accordance with label directions, and persons falsifying records. Also, a few inspections have discovered

unlicensed RUP dealers selling restricted-use pesticides. Criminal penalties have been issued for two cases originating as animal poisoning investigations.

STRUCTURAL: SC has seen an increase in the unlicensed issuance of fraudulent Wood Infestation Reports by home inspectors. Liability is limited for home inspections reports and home inspectors are attempting to offset the liability from a WIR to a home inspection report labeled as a “Not a Wood Infestation Report.”

C&T: Implementation for C&T changes will begin in the 2026 legislative session with full compliance by December 31, 2029. DPR has continued to provide updates and online presentations across the state to educate South Carolina applicators on category-specific recertification requirements, licensing protocol, examination process and keeping in compliance with state and federal pesticide regulations for South Carolina.

DPR continues to approve all recertification courses/programs according to South Carolina’s regulation requiring continuing education training hours for all pesticide applicators; private, commercial, and noncommercial. DPR also approves recertification courses that meet the category-specific recertification hour requirement for individuals licensed in the mandatory licensing categories: 3, 5, 7A, 7B and 8. Commercial and noncommercial South Carolina pesticide applicators are presently in the second year of their five-year block which ends on 12/31/2028. Private applicators are in the first year of their five-year recertification accrual block.

South Carolina’s Recertification program continues to expand, and online training courses and webinars are a large portion of the total courses submitted into your state for recertification consideration.

WPS: South Carolina’s Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) continued to implement and enforce the revised EPA Worker Protection Standard regulation for the 2024-2025 reporting time frame. inspection year.

We have continued to help prepare SC growers to meet the requirements of the revised WPS regulation via online methods as well as in person meetings. During this reporting time in-person and online meetings have been conducted to assess inspector training needs and to address areas of concern while conducting WPS inspections. The Ideagen inspection application program is currently being used for all WPS inspections during this reporting time. All WPS inspections are entered into this new online inspection database system. All routine WPS inspections on farms, forestry, nursery and greenhouses inspections are entered into this system from the field. All completed WPS case files are reviewed by Ms. Lognion to ensure the cases are correct and complete.

Outreach materials which, included PowerPoint presentations, handouts for family farms and resource contact lists were updated and used by the field to aid in their inspection efforts. Field investigators handed out WPS safety posters and educational materials to growers during their inspections during this reporting time frame. Training DVD videos have been distributed to growers across our state who have limited or no access to the internet.

Ms. Lognion continues to be an active council member of the South Carolina Migrant Health Advisory Council for South Carolina and continues to serve in an officer position on this council for the 2025 year. Ms. Lognion is also actively involved with the South Carolina Agricultural Worker

Health programs in SC. Ms. Lognion represented SC in the EPA/State Regional WPS Stakeholders meetings held throughout this reporting time frame.

SC collaborated with Clemson's Rural Health Mobile Health division for this growing season to reach the agricultural seasonal and permanent workforce regarding pesticide safety. Ms. Lognion arranged for EPA personnel to meet with Rural Health personnel and tour the migrant health outreach mobile units. South Carolina's WPS program continues to meet all required and projected areas outlined in the EPA guidance. South Carolina's DPR WPS inspection numbers and WPS 5700 forms were completed during this reporting time frame.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: SC has kept abreast of the changes regarding pesticide labeling, territory maps, bulletins and label information released by EPA regarding Endangered Species impact areas in South Carolina. Links to the Bulletins live and ES territory maps have been sent to all field staff to address in their inspection efforts in 2025. ES outreach brochures are handed out upon request at meetings and tradeshow. South Carolina's DPR brochure supplies are limited due to lack of funding by EPA for this program. Funding by EPA is a necessity for this program to succeed to its full potential.

WATER QUALITY: DPR evaluated Pesticides of Interest to the State through its groundwater sampling program. During 2025, DPR collected over 40 groundwater samples from wells located in rural areas, at farms, at golf courses and/or nursery/greenhouse operations. DPR will report the detection data to EPA and the well owners as in previous years.

PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL: This program is hosted by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.

CONTAINER RECYCLING: 75,000 lbs. collected as of 9/30/2025.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES: Outreach and educational materials continue to be distributed to school district personnel and pest control personnel as ongoing outreach for SC's IPM in Schools program. SC's IPM in Schools Program continues to be addressed during DPR inspections and outreach trainings across the state.

NEW ISSUES/CONCERNS: DPR received a request for regulatory assistance by the town of Kiawah Island. The request was to ban the use of rodenticides on the island and was supported by 2 local legislators. DPR denied the request. DPR classified all SGARs as a state RUP, effective January 1st, 2025. This state RUP classification for SGARs in SC has been extended indefinitely.

PESTICIDE REGISTRATION: 16,292 - Current total Approved Products with 8/31/26 expiration

- 384 (2025 Non-renewals)
- 15,368 (2026 Renewals)
- 1,022 Product Cancellations
- 502 New Product Registrations
- 977 - 25(b)

TENNESSEE:

BUDGET: Status Quo.

STAFFING: All field positions are filled at present.

LEGISLATIVE/RULES: Status Quo, session starts in January 2026.

STRUCTURAL: TDA is still working on 2 illegal cases at present.

C&T: Responded to a couple of questions for the modification of the plan and still waiting on the final response.

WPS: Status Quo.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Status Quo.

WATER QUALITY: Status Quo.

PESTICIDE WASTE DISPOSAL: For TN, this program is still on pause and working with TDEC as another option.

CONTAINER RECYCLING: Status Quo.

PESTICIDE REGISTRATION: Status Quo.