

**EPA REGION 3  
REPORT to Full SFIREG  
State FIFIRA Issues, Research, and Evaluation Group Meeting**

The EPA Region 3 Pre-SFIREG Meeting was held April 7-9, 2026 in Philadelphia, PA. In attendance were representatives from each of the Region 3 states, EPA Region 3 office as well as EPA Headquarters.

EPA staff provided updates on a wide variety of topics, which included staffing shortages and reassignment of duties. The Land Chemicals and Redevelopment Division (LCRD) provided information on mid-year and end-of-year grant reporting, the possibility of holding monthly or bi-monthly cCalls, rotation of regional SFIREG chair, and staffing updates. The Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD) provided discussion on the 2026 Week-in-Residence (WIRE) training for inspectors, scheduling oversight inspections, submission of inspection reports/files, the regional inspector's workshop and SLITS label system.

Since the Region 3 Pre-SFIREG meeting took place prior to having topics from the SFIREG Leadership meeting, the following topics were discussed as anticipation of what we would be asked to provide feedback on.

**Cooperative Agreement Guidance**

- Nothing needing corrections for further discussion stands out by the states at this time.

**Draft Guidance for Certifying Authorities on Submitting Modified C&T Plans**

- States agree this a great document to have. Delaware and Pennsylvania plan to modify their approved C&T Plans, so this will be a valuable tool.

**Notification to SLAs when GUPs are reclassified to RUPs.**

- This report is used, however it would be beneficial to all states if direct notification is provided to SLAs.

**Bilingual Labeling FAQs**

- No major discussion or issues on this topic.

**State-Level Conservation Programs Accepted as EPA-Qualified Conservation Plans**

- While it would be nice to be involved in this process, the state pesticide programs don't have the expertise to review. Perhaps this should be directed to the state conservation commissions?

**Pesticide App for Label Mitigations (PALM)**

- The app has been mentioned during recertification meetings, however states are not sure how much it is actually being used.

**Pesticides in Water**

- States are not familiar with the Pesticide in Water Calculator (PWC), thus this tool is not being utilized.
- Would like to have a webinar to learn how to use the PWC.

### **PFAS and Pesticides**

- Most of the Region 3 states either have water quality monitoring program contract or another state agency in their state does the monitoring and shares data when appropriate. No state program is currently monitoring for trifluoroacetic acid (TFA).
- Some Region 3 states register spray adjuvants, others do not.

### **Pesticide Treated Seed**

- No state is currently tracking the amount of treated seed that is sold, planted or disposed of.

### **Pesticide Registration Decisions**

- No major discussion or issues on this topic.

### **New and Ongoing Issues**

- Concerns were discussed with federal preemptions in proposed legislation and how these will affect state pesticide laws and administrative programs.

Upon receipt of the SFIREG leadership topics for Pre-SFIREG, the following topics were discussed virtually.

### **Expiration Dates on SLNs**

- Delaware issued one SNL with no expiration date. Unsure at this time how it will impact the state.
- The other states continue to require expiration dates for incentive for companies to incorporate these uses into their Section 3 labels. The SLNs remain registered unless cancelled by the registrant or EPA mandates cancellation.

### **New Work Screwworm**

- Delaware and West Virginia is registering products submitted by USDA and compiling a list.

### **Label Complexity of OTT Dicamba Products**

- What questions are you receiving in your state regarding these registrations and the label language for these products?
  - So far, states have received any registration questions these products.
- Are SLAs conducting investigations related to drift for these products and, if so, how will these be conducted?
  - States have not received any complaints related to these products.
- How are SLAs interpreting the label requirements for mandatory down wind buffers and the options for reducing these buffers?
  - No interpretations have been made. Reading the label requirements and applying them to field situations seem straightforward as far as interpretation.
- What are SLAs using for documenting weather data for determining compliance.

- Documenting observed conditions using hand-held equipment during the application. If reviewing records, using a combination of data from application records and data from local weather stations.
  - PA has been receiving complaints about wind-speed. This is very difficult to take enforcement action. Don't levy a high penalty for violations, unless measured at time of the application by the inspector.
- How do states utilize/treat/review handheld equipment for weather data collected?
    - Use as part of the total picture. Obvious violations of label restrictions do not pose an issue, however if close to the restriction limits, the inspector uses the hand-held information in conjunction with online weather readings to "create" a better picture.
  - Where/what URLs/sites do SLAs use for weather data and why?
    - <https://www.wunderground.com/>. This website shows historical data from a variety of weather stations.
      - Note: In PA, we would rely more on weather data from nearby airports, versus backyard weather stations.
    - DE: <https://www.deos.udel.edu/>
  - How does your SLA address situations where applicator information doesn't match the weather data collected by the SLA?
    - PA has received conflicting information between complainants and weather data. In that case, we sided with the weather data.

### **Resources for Implementation of ESA Strategies**

- No additional resources, other than what was mentioned by SFIREG committee.

### **Next Meeting**

- The Region 3 Spring Pre-SFIREG Meeting is scheduled for November 4-5 at the EPA Region 3 office in Philadelphia, PA.
- A representative from West Virginia will be assuming the role of the Region 3 SFIREG Chair.

## State Reports

### Delaware

- **Staff Update** – As of April 6, 2026, the program is fully staffed, with the hiring of a New Castle County inspector.

- **Budget Outlook**

The State of Delaware allegedly has a stable budget. Pesticide section should remain fully funded for program needs, using ASF/GRANT funds.

HB 221 passed on March 25th 2026, this will increase our bi-annual pesticide product registration fee from \$140.00 to \$280.00. It should be in place for the next fiscal year. FY26 product registration will still be \$140.

- **Equipment/Technology**

DDA continues to support Fieldwatch/Driftwatch/BeeCheck website.

Still utilize Salesforce platform for our database needs. With the recent increase in fee we are in talks with Salesforce about the integration of Agentforce AI. Hoping this technology will enhance our user experience.

The CATS database has been upgraded. This upgrade will bring the online platform up to speed with technological upgrades which have been made over the years. It should also improve the functionality of the database. Still working out a few bugs, but it is up and running.

- **Statute/Regulatory Changes**

Proposed a product registration fee increase. (mentioned above).

Have put in to edit the Pesticide Law to include “private” applicators in the recordkeeping requirements. With the change in USDA in regard to private applicators and RUP record keeping requirements, we have to add this or our private applicators will not be required to keep any records. Hoping this makes it into the fall session.

- **Program Specific Issues**

***Water Quality:*** Hydrologist is in the process of finalizing new web design of well data (ALMOST THERE). DDA is also increasing the frequency of the water level readings and adding HOBO units to as many wells as possible to improve the data generated from the wells.

***Endangered Species:*** When requested, DDA provides pesticide analytical testing for wildlife cases involving endangered species. DDA continues to follow the ESA updates and is trying to stay on top of any new outreach/education to implement any changes involving ESA.

***Disposal/Recycling:*** Recycling is currently being done at large plastic producers, but DDA staff has zero involvement with collection. Plastic producers are given the contractors information, and they contact them for container pickup. Same as spring update.

**Obsolete Pesticide Disposal:** Spring pickup was completed in 2026 with no issues, vendor was MXI. Jimmy always keeps a running list of future pickup sites, if budget allows DDA will plan another pickup in the spring of 2027.

***Certification and Training:***

- Working with EPA region to change part of the new C&T rule to better align with PA and MD supervision requirements for non-certified individuals applying RUP's. UPDATE, reviewed comments from Region and sent back revision to Region III, received confirmation that they received and have started review.
  
- Work has been done to improve both the core pre-test review session and the Ornamental and Turf pre-test Review. The applicator community continues to praise these efforts. DDA hopes these training sessions improves the quality of applicators within the State of Delaware. More schools have been added this year and there is a continued effort to look for areas to expand.

- **Enforcement Update**

Despite being short an inspector for most of the calendar year DDA inspectors plan to meet the FY26 commitments with no issues.

DDA inspectors have seen many issues with inconsistent label messaging for many of the mosquito control products, mainly concerning PPE requirements. James Hughes is working through POM to potentially address some of these issues with EPA, which hopefully will trickle down to the registrants. STILL ONGOING IN FY25.

DDA had one case go all the way to hearing. This usually does not occur, respondents usually settle prior to hearing. DDA was successful in the hearing and a civil penalty was issued to the Respondent. This case involved the improper use of termiticide disclosure form (Recordkeeping violation).

## District of Columbia

- **DOEE Pesticides Program Staff Updates** – A vacancy still exists in the Pesticide Program, however DOEE is actively working to fill. The plan is to attend the May hiring fair to identify qualified candidates and ensure continued efficiency in program operations.
- **C&T**  
An audit of all program exams has been completed, with updates made to reflect current standards. Personalized study materials are in development for each exam. The certification and training program is also being expanded to encompass new categories and sub-categories, targeting full implementation by the end of FY26.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) was published in the DC Register and the public comment period closed without any comments received.

- **Everblue** – The District’s partnership with Everblue continues to support online examinations at a fee of \$30 for non-government applicants, while government applications are covered at no cost to the program. In-person commercial and private exams remain available, with a long-term goal of reducing testing frequency and consolidating testing sites.

- **Inspections & Enforcement**

The District has had no reported bee kill incidents to date. Monitoring and investigation of potential pesticide-related environmental impacts remains ongoing, conducted in collaboration with Fish and Wildlife and Fieldwatch.

The District is actively collaborating with Acclaims (DC Plants) to finalize our digital inspection forms as part of a broader effort to modernize our field operations. Once completed, inspectors will be equipped with tablets to collect field data and execute form signatures electronically, replacing the current paper-based process. This transition to digital documentation is expected to improve data accuracy, streamline reporting, and enhance overall operational efficiency in the field.

The previous requirement for operators to submit annual pesticide use data has been eliminated.

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) presentation for schools was refreshed and posted to the website, equipping schools with up-to-date guidance on sustainable pest control practices.

The inspection plan has also been overhauled to promote equitable coverage across all Wards, with heightened attention to historically underserved communities and a broader reach into diverse marketplaces to strengthen regulatory compliance and public safety.

## Maryland

- **Legislative/Regulatory Update**

HB091 has been introduced to prohibit the use of seeds that have been treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide. This bill would also prohibit a person from using a neonicotinoid pesticide to treat outdoor ornamental plants and turf.

HB1237 was instructed to expand the pesticide sensitive program to include any individual interested in being notified of a pesticide application contiguous or adjacent to their property.

Both have received quite a bit of opposition from industry, thus never made it out of committee. The legislative session ended on April 13.

- **Staff and Budget** – MDA Pesticide Regulation Section (PRS) remains at full staff, currently. The budget is still very tight. A \$70.8 billion state budget is going through the approval process and is expected to pass. This include a \$1.5 billion cut to make up for the deficit.
- **Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling/Pesticide Disposal**  
Due to budget cuts, there is no disposal program in Maryland. Container recycling is subpar and MDA has no intention of sponsoring a program until a contractor is found that is able to provide a consistent service. There are some individual farms participating, however the current recycler is not showing up when contacted.
- **Field Watch** - MDA entered into an agreement with FieldWatch on January 1, 2019. Most participants have been small scale/hobbyist beekeepers (80%). The number of crops listed has continued to increase each year.
- **Enforcement/Inspection Activities**  
MDA exceeded its inspection commitments for FY 25 and is on track to do so in 2026. MDA currently has 5 Ag Inspectors and one Supervising Inspector which, combined, conducts over 1000 inspections (plus complaint investigations) each year.

Neighbor vs Neighbor complaints continue to increase and show no signs of slowing. Mothball calls are still an issue. Most cases are handled in-house and are issued a Notice of Warning plus Cease & Desist. If a site visit is necessary, such as repeat calls), an automatic \$1000 civil penalty is issued if violations are found.

Maryland has been dealing with a lot of unlicensed companies. In Maryland, if you advertise or solicit pest control in any way, you must hold a license.

There has been a significant increase in calls about contrails.

Inspector David Parks has been participating in the ASPCRO Inspector training which is a monthly webinar training program culminating in an in-person final training session during the ASPCRO summer meeting which will be held in Fort Collins, CO, August 2026.

- **Certification and Training**

As stated above, changes to our Statute because of the C&T Rule were submitted to Legislature for approval and passed. Companion regulations have been drafted for submission to and approval by the legislature. The regulations are on track to meet the July 2026 timeframe.

Recertification training is just about done for the year. As of April, more than 800 in person and online meetings/courses have been approved. PRS staff has attended roughly 100 training courses.

PRS continues to meet with UMD Extension yearly and has a great relationship with our PSEP. While we have discussed the new C&T changes for Maryland at past recertification meetings (since the Rule was published), we have asked Extension to make this part of the required training they provide to growers and applicators. We have also asked them to focus on ESA (BLT, Herbicide Strategy, Insecticide Strategy). UMD PSEP has put together a very basic exercise that can be used at grower meetings to help with mitigation measures.

MDA has adopted the CORE manual created by PERC, with updates to the Maryland Chapter. The current budget situation is not conducive for the purchasing of manuals. Applicators will have to purchase directly from PERC and they can download the Maryland Chapter for free on the MDA website.

Maryland is continuing their relationship with Everblue to provide online examinations at no cost to MDA (\$27.09 per exam paid by the applicant). In-person commercial and private examinations will still be offered, as usual. The goal is not to necessarily eliminate in-person exams but to conduct them less frequently and at fewer sites.

- **Pesticide Use Survey**

PRS has contracted with USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for a 2024 Pesticide Use Survey. Maryland has been doing these voluntary surveys since 1981. The most recent Survey was conducted in 2024. Response rate varied among applicator type, but averaged 33.3%. Maryland offers full recertification credit for those that complete the survey. The 2024 survey is available on the MDA website. Plans are to conduct another survey in late 2026.

As stated in the last report, MDA received a Petition from Earth Justice and other groups asking for required mandatory pesticide use reporting once a pesticide application has been conducted. They have also requested that these records be available online to the public. Maryland may see a legislative push on this.

- **Enforcement/Certification Database** - MDA, PRS has been working diligently with Kyra on a Salesforce database. This has been a monumental effort on all sides. The "go live" date has been pushed back multiple times since July as issues are still getting worked out. Kyra has been meeting with MDA daily to address the bugs. There is still no set date when Salesforce will go live.

## Pennsylvania

- **Staff Changes**

Pennsylvania is down a clerical position and the Environmental Enforcement Specialist (Jim Cunningham) due to retirements. Both positions are going through the process of being filled. The field staff complement is full.

- **Funding**

The pesticide program is supported by a combination of funding sources: general state funds; fees for pesticide licenses and registrations, grants and cooperative agreements. This combination of funding sources continues to provide stable funding for the program.

There were rumors that Pennsylvania is going to have a state budget impasse this year, however that is uncertain. If this happens, there is likely to be a ban on travel and purchasing. Conditions of an impasse change, so exact restrictions are unknown at this time. This past year, Pennsylvania was without a budget between July 1 through November 12.

- **C&T Plan**

In February 2026, EPA approved the revised C&T plan, which was submitted in July. Since then, PDA was approached by a company wishing to obtain certification to apply antifouling paint. Pennsylvania does not currently have a comparable certification category; thus, this identified a gap in our plan. It was decided to add an additional category of certification, “Marine Antifouling”. We didn’t want to state paint, just in case there are other products in the future that would be classified as antifouling products but not actually paint. Since the addition of a new category is considered a substantial modification, Pennsylvania must once again submit a revised plan, which was done on March 2, 2026.

In the previous plan, certification for swimming pools was removed. It was realized this was a mistake, because some pools use chlorine gas. The “Swimming Pools” category has been reinstated for the use of RUPs; GUPs are still exempt. “Cooling Towers” was also added as a new category. Applicators in this category are currently assigned Aquatics, however for better program management, PDA feels these applicators should have a separate category. Other revisions to the plan include notable and incidental changes, mainly to improve language.

The proposed regulations are currently on their way to the Governor’s office for approval. We are still on track to meet our proposed implementation deadline of June 2027.

PDA continues to work with Penn State University to transition all certification examinations to closed book. In May, “Agricultural Animals” was the next exam to transition to closed book. This leaves private category, agronomic crops, fruit tree & nuts, and demonstration & research as the only open book exams.

On October 30, 2025, PDA launched a pilot program in the Philadelphia region to have all closed book exams proctored by a third-party testing center. For the most part, feedback has been positive. Test takers like knowing their exam score immediately and the ability to reschedule retests (if needed) within a week. While this pilot is only in the

Philadelphia region, we have seen individuals from other regions travel to Philadelphia, just because of greater availability to take the exam. Industry representatives expressed concerns over this new project. Mainly, they did not want PDA implementing a policy that would make taking the pesticide certification exam a burden, such as long travel distances or some individuals not able to take computerized exams. PDA understands these concerns and commits to not implementing third-party testing if no such facility exists within a region. Furthermore, PDA realizes there are citizens in Pennsylvania that may be unable to take a computerized exam; thus, PDA will still need to continue proctoring some examination sessions.

- **Enforcement**

The PDA Enforcement Program continues to provide a strong enforcement presence while at the same time promoting education and compliance assistance during inspection opportunities. Civil penalty assessments have continued and are an effective enforcement tool. In 2025, PDA conducted 828 pesticide-related inspections and investigations. There were 142 compliance and enforcement actions taken, consisting of 59 Civil Penalties, 45 Notices of Warning, and 38 Requests for Compliance to various Pennsylvania firms and individuals. Some actions contained multiple violations of the PA Pesticide Control Act. Civil penalties ranged from \$200 to \$10,000. The \$10,000 civil penalty was issued to a company for multiple drift violations. That company has since been purchased by another company. The new owners committed to implementing better applicator training and improved equipment.

In January, PDA completed revisions to the Civil Penalty Matrix. Under the new matrix, violations are assessed a base penalty, then other factors are considered that may increase or decrease the penalty. These factors are compliance history, responsiveness, scope, nature of violation, prior knowledge and resource allocation.

- **Integrated Pest Management**

In 2002, the Pennsylvania School Code was modified to include IPM requirements at all public schools, daycares and vocational technical institutes. This law requires schools to develop IPM plans and notification and posting of all pesticide applications. We recently conducted some business licensing & records inspections at school districts and found several violations of the IPM law. In September 2025, an employee at a school district placed mothballs throughout the HVAC system to control mice, which resulted in an elementary school be shut down for two months and over \$100,000 in clean-up costs and air quality monitory. With these recent events, and years of no enforcement, there is a need for outreach to school districts to remind them of the IPM requirements and pesticide applicator certification.

In a joint agreement between PDA and Penn State University, educational and outreach events have greatly increased at school districts throughout the Commonwealth. Penn State staff have been attending school facility managers' meetings, publishing notices in PA Department of Education's monthly newsletter to superintendents and reaching out to school districts individually to discuss IPM plans and notifications.

In 2026, PDA will be increasing our enforcement presence at school districts to ensure all applicators are properly licensed and the school is adhering to the IPM requirements.

- **Worker Protection Standard**

PDA contracts with Penn State University's Office of Rural Health to provide WPS education and outreach to the agricultural industry. During the last fiscal year, there were 145 grower visits, which included 23 full compliance assistance visits. Staff set up educational booths at 12 agricultural shows throughout Pennsylvania, as well as the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show in Baltimore, MD. There were 45 presentations given throughout the year at various events.

PSU is currently updating the WPS compliance video to incorporate new federal regulations.

- **Pesticide Product Registration**

The sale and use of pesticide products in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must comply with both state and federal law. The PDA registers nearly 14,000 pesticides for use and distribution in the state. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allows some pesticide products, which meet very specific criteria, to be sold and used without federal registration as "reduced risk pesticides." However, the Pennsylvania Pesticide Control Act does not provide an exemption for "minimum risk pesticides" and therefore "minimum risk pesticides" must be state registered in Pennsylvania.

- **Field Watch**

PA has been participating in FieldWatch since 2019. FieldWatch data is managed by the Penn State Pesticide Education Program.

- **Water Quality (Ground Water Monitoring)**

PDA contracts with the United States Geological Survey to collect well water samples in vulnerable areas throughout PA. A suite of 83 pesticide compounds and 20 surrogate recoveries are analyzed at the USGS National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) using pesticide Schedule 2447. Samples are also analyzed for nutrients (Schedule 2755) and elements (Schedule 23643). USGS samples 30 wells each season with additional wells repeated the following season if higher levels of pesticides were detected. Of the 30 wells, 10 are also tested for 28 PFAS compounds. PDA will continue to evaluate the fifty-seven EPA pesticides of interest (POI) and their degradates.

Areas sampled for 2025 include the Pittsburgh Low Plateau and the Northwestern Glaciated surficial hydrogeologic settings. We have not received the 2025 sampling results. No pesticide detections exceeded the respective U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) or lifetime health advisories (HALs). There were zero PFAS detections for any of the analyzed compounds.

PDA and USGS are currently in the process of renewing for an additional 5 years. In the next contract, focus will be on hydrogeologic settings in Pennsylvania's agricultural belt in Southcentral and Southeastern counties.

- **Pesticide Disposal/Container Recycling**

PDA continues to support the waste pesticide disposal stewardship program. 2025 activities included:

- Farm-to-farm collections in 15 counties totaling 65,896 pounds.
- 19 counties holding 27 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events collecting 125,809 pounds of homeowner pesticides.

- Total of 191,705 pounds of unwanted pesticides collected; an increase from 2024.

For 2026, 19 counties are included for farm-to-farm collections, and we expect similar HHW events. PDA has sent CHEMSWEEP announcements to applicators and businesses with collections to begin in June.

- **Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program (PPCR)**

PDA continues to offer the PPCR program to the agricultural and professional pesticide application industries. Single-use jugs and drums are collected and granulated from 152 locations across Pennsylvania. In 2025, PDA granulated 69,400 pounds of pesticide containers. Granulated plastic is sold to help offset operating costs.

## Virginia

- **Legislative Update**

During the 2026 General Assembly session, several bills were introduced addressing pesticide regulation and use. SB 163 bill required volunteers applying or supervising pesticides on behalf of state or local agencies to be certified as commercial applicators or registered technicians, with certification limited to those official duties. It also provided an exemption for unpaid volunteers using nonrestricted herbicides to control invasive plants or noxious weeds on state-owned property, if authorized by a state agency, and maintained existing fee exemptions for government entities. This bill passed the General Assembly and was sent to the Governor for final action.

HB 1375 sought to prohibit the manufacture, distribution, sale, and use of pesticides containing paraquat and authorized enforcement actions including seizure of such products. That bill was continued to the 2027 session in committee and did not advance further during the 2026 session

- **Regulatory Update**

C&T Plan Update - A draft of proposed amendments to the regulations to meet the requirements of the finalized revisions to the federal Certification of Pesticide Applicators was presented to and approved by the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services at its July 2024 meeting. The proposed text was provided to EPA for review and comment on July 16, 2024. VDACS submitted the proposed regulations to Virginia's Regulatory Town Hall within 180 days of the closure of the NOIRA public comment period to initiate Executive Branch review.

Executive Branch review is currently in progress and is now with the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB). Upon completion of DPB review, the proposed amendments will proceed to the Office of the Governor for final Executive Branch review. Following completion of Executive Branch review, the proposed regulation will be published for a public comment period, which typically lasts at least 60 days, prior to final adoption. Based on standard regulatory timelines, final adoption could occur in late 2026 or early 2027.

Public Health Mosquito Control Certification Category - On September 26, 2025, VDACS received a Petition for Rulemaking from the Virginia Pest Management Association requesting that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Board) establish a new pesticide certification category. The petition seeks the creation of a new category or subcategory for commercial applicators who perform public health mosquito control in residential settings. The notice was published in the Virginia Register of Regulations, and a public comment period was held. The petition was presented to the Board at its December 11, 2025 meeting, and the Board approved the petition. VDACS is expected to initiate the regulatory process, which will include development of proposed regulatory text, publication of a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA), and an associated public comment period.

- **Personnel**

Micah Raub, formerly CLRT Unit Supervisor, transferred to Senior Compliance Officer effective March 25, 2026. The program is currently working with VDACS Human Resources to update the position to begin the recruitment process. Kaylen Smith now

serves as Pesticide Safety & Certification Lead Coordinator, overseeing applicator certification and WPS compliance, with two vacant positions under her supervision currently being recruited. Nateshia Mitchell manages product registration and business licensing, and Tonita Clark handles pesticide recertification course approvals. Two of the three coordinators hold supervisory duties and serve as primary contacts until the CLRT Unit Supervisor role is filled.

- **Certification, Licensing, Registration & Training**

Under the current administration, VDACS is reporting accomplishments in real time, allowing staff and leadership to track progress on certifications, licenses, training, enforcement, and outreach activities. FY 26 has already exceeded FY 25 totals for several key metrics:

- Commercial Applicator Certifications: 8,549 (FY 25: 7,007)
- Registered Technician Certifications: 11,590 (FY 25: 10,281)
- Private Applicator Certifications: 4,124 (FY 25: 4,400)
- Pesticide Recertification Course Approvals: 225 (FY 25: 260)
- Enforcement inspections: 2,610 (FY 25: 2,245)
- Enforcement Complaints received: 87 (FY 25: 149)
- Legal updates/outreach events: 229 (FY 25: 236)

This real-time reporting highlights VDACS' productivity, accountability, and impact across program areas.

- **Enforcement & Compliance**

VDACS has received inquiries from businesses regarding the use of milk as a deer repellent, which were elevated to the VDACS Commissioner for review. The agency sought guidance from EPA on whether such a product would be considered a pesticide and if it could qualify for exemption under FIFRA. Guidance was received, and the information was shared with the inquiring businesses.

- **Environmental Stewardship Programs**

Pollinator Protection - Continued support of FieldWatch tools to facilitate communication between beekeepers and pesticide applicators under Virginia's Voluntary Plan to Mitigate the Risk of Pesticides to Managed Pollinators. Virginia currently has 2,718 apiaries and 5,076 beehives registered (BeeCheck) and 459 applicators registered (FieldCheck). Information on FieldWatch remains available on the agency website and is included in required pesticide regulatory updates at applicator recertification courses. The Plan also includes best management practices for beekeepers, applicators, and landowners to reduce pollinator exposure to pesticides.

Pesticide Collection Program – For CY 2026, the program is scheduled in the northeast region of the Commonwealth, covering 21 counties, with six collection events planned for late August through mid-September. All locations have been confirmed and registration is open. In CY 2025, approximately 116,000 pounds of pesticides were collected in Southeast Virginia. OPS is also planning to launch a new electronic registration system using ArcGIS / Survey123 to support pesticide disposal registration, including photo uploads, document submission, and weight estimation. Traditional submission methods (email, fax, mail) will remain available.

Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program - For CY 2026, VDACS renewed 15 Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) at \$2,500 each to support the program. In CY

2025, VDACS reimbursed \$20,000 to Virginia Cooperative Extension and localities for outreach and program support, including space rental, educational events, and grower participation incentives. The program collected approximately 35,000 pounds of pesticide plastic containers statewide in CY 2025. EcoAg Recycling conducted site visits at five participating locations. OPS also distributed jet rinse nozzles to select localities to support proper container rinsing. No collections have been scheduled for 2026 due to challenges coordinating pickup schedules with EcoAg's new contractor assigned by ACRC.

## West Virginia

- **Personnel**

There is currently one vacancy following the departure of Jennifer Shively, C&T Supervisor, who left in mid-December. Interviews have been completed, and a request to hire has been submitted.

- **C&T Plan**

Revised Rules became effective April 15, 2024.

- 61CSR12 A Certified Pesticide Applicator Rule
- 61CSR12B Licensing of Pesticide Businesses

Implementation goals...

WVDA began proctoring exams for Private Applicators started January 1, 2025.

Categories revisions were completed on July 1, 2025. Acclaim has completed all the programming for the CT Plan category revisions.

- **WPS Outreach/Ag Safety Days**

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) outreach efforts continue statewide. The Agricultural Health and Safety Coordinator has been actively training and contacting growers to offer site visits aimed at assessing compliance, as well as providing all required WPS trainings. These include respiratory protection and farm equipment safety training.

In 2026, two Agricultural Safety Days events have been conducted. The first was held in the western part of the state on January 6–7, with 15 total attendees. The second took place in the Eastern Panhandle from February 2–5, with 85 total attendees. To date, a total of 138 workers, 29 handlers, and 2 Train-the-Trainer participants have received WPS training.

Additionally, the Agricultural Health and Safety Coordinator is now certified as an instructor for CPR, First Aid, AED, and Stop the Bleed.

- **Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling/Disposal**

9 sites available for collecting plastic pesticide containers for recycling. WVDA has purchased and rented sea containers set up at WVDA field offices, grower locations, custom applicator sites and golf courses.

EcoAg Inc. was scheduled to pickup in mid-December, however has had constant delays, so now working with EBM Eco.

- **Waste and Unwanted Pesticides – Northward Environmental** - 5,569 lbs. of liquid waste pesticides collected to date during recent November 25 and March 26 collection events.

- **Endangered Species Act** - Will include ESA presentation provided by Region 3 at grower meetings and recertification trainings. Nutrient Management Program has added

three new Nutrient Management Specialists to write plans in the Ohio River watershed. This will provide opportunities for ESA training and ensure conservation practices are in place for growers needing to comply with ESA labeling.

- **Inspections and Enforcement**

Fully Staffed-WVDA expected to meet or exceed inspection requirements.

No bee kill investigations during FY 26. Most common violations are IPM in schools and day care centers.

Noteworthy enforcement actions-

- WVDOH-Applicator made roadway treatment with pesticide leaching into stream that ran along road. \$350 fine paid.
- Termite application made at a school. Applicator was missing his 8(B) certifications. Applicator has since come in and tested to obtain certification. \$350 fine paid.