

ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 - AUGUST 31, 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

EXTENSION

PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

HOSTED EVENTS (attendees)

- 2024 Agricultural Pesticide Applicator Meeting, live online 3/19/24 (63)
Updates on pest management and pesticide safety practices in agriculture for certified applicators https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/UVM-Extension-Cultivating-Healthy-Communities/PSEP/PSEP_VTAA23.pdf
IMPACTS:
 - 93% moderate/considerable (118% increase) general knowledge about Rodenticide Use Standards
 - 91% moderate/considerable (31% increase) general knowledge about Avoiding Herbicide Resistance in Weed Management
 - 96% moderate/considerable (15% increase) general knowledge about Worker Protection Standards
 - 96% moderate/considerable (38% increase) general knowledge Respirator Fit Testing
 - 100% moderate/considerable (31% increase) general knowledge Vermont Pollinator Rule Best Practices
 - 93% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 83% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
 - 80% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice to protect pollinators
 - “I learned quite a bit, good detail.”
- 2024 Initial Pesticide Certification Meeting, live hybrid 4/9/24 Rutland VT (11), Brattleboro VT (9), St. Johnsbury VT (8), Burlington VT (20)
Review of the Northeast CORE Manual followed by the Vermont Pesticide Applicator CORE Exam https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/UVM-Extension-Cultivating-Healthy-Communities/PSEP/PSEP_CORE24.pdf
IMPACTS:
 - 79% pass rate (in-state average 77%)
 - 70% moderately/well prepared (180% increase) to take the exam following the review session
 - 95% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 75% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
 - 83% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice to protect pollinator
 - “It was very beneficial to me to have this meeting to help understand some of the material”
 - “After reading the book hearing it helped me the most with my learning style”
 - “Very useful for breaking down both label reading info and calculations”
 - “Would not have made it through material without class review”
 - “Pollinator information was great”**Test results:**
 - 42 tests administered
 - 9 failed
 - 79% pass rate

PRESENTATIONS (attendees)

- A Look at Biopesticides. 2023 UVM Extension Master Gardener Conference 12/2/23 (99)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vYiumHknNc&list=PLIpA6aofy5DFk1Cg-DHoHKbF7mgez0k2N&index=2>
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 70% moderately/very likely to apply and use biopesticides more safely
 - 52% moderately/very likely to reduce the use of synthetic pesticides
 - “If I do use some, I’ll be sure to read the labels”
 - “Really helped me understand the broad offerings and where to use them (and where not)”
 - “Learned about the risk of phototoxicity with the use of certain biopesticides. That may be important information if asked a question about plant damage following the use of a biopesticide by a home gardener”
- FieldWatch Information Session, live online 12/15/23 (41)
- Pesticide Certification Intro. PSS 281 Professional development for undergraduates. 4/3024 (18)
- Teaching Pesticide Math. AAPSE National Conference, Laramie WY 7/25/24 (30)

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR REPORT -> *THE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR*

Biannual newsletter for Vermont’s pesticide applicators from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets and University of Vermont Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program

- Fall 2023 https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/PestAppRep_Fall2023_FINALwithinsertsforms.pdf
- Spring 2024 https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/ThePestApp_Spring2024_FINAL.pdf
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 1500 active pesticide applicators
 - Fall 2023: 293 (20%) quizzes @1 credit each
 - Spring 2024: 106 (7%) quizzes @ 1 credit each

ARTICLES, FACT SHEETS & VIDEOS

Relevant information for proper and legal use and understanding of pesticides

- Back to Basics CORE Essentials: Pesticide Review. The Pesticide Applicator Report, Fall 2023
https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/PestAppRep_Fall2023_FINALwithinsertsforms.pdf
- Back to Basics CORE Essentials: Reading Labels to Compare Products. The Pesticide Applicator, Spring 2024 https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/ThePestApp_Spring2024_FINAL.pdf
- Reviewer: Frequently Asked Questions for Pesticide Applicators about Section 5.04 Protection of Bees (Laura Johnson) <https://go.uvm.edu/504faq>

PESTICIDE CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Ensure pesticide credit approval, verify participant attendance requirements for credit, issue credit certificates, notify State Lead Agencies of credits issued

- FieldWatch Information Session, live online 12/15/23
 - 16 VT certificates @1 credit each; 3 out of state certificates @1 credit each
 - 16 participants certified
- Northeast Extension Fruit Consortium Winter Webinar Series (4 events)
 - 88 VT certificates @1 credit each
 - 59 participants certified
- Agricultural Pesticide Applicator Meeting, live online 3/19/24
 - 56 VT certificates @2-4 credits each; 7 NY certificates @1.5-2 credits each
 - 56 participants certified
- Vermont Pesticide Safety Education: On-demand online training
 - 10 VT certificates @1 credit each

ON-DEMAND ONLINE TRAINING (participants)

Resources to help study for pesticide applicator exams and/or to provide recertification credits for certified pesticide applicators. Annual enrollment numbers.

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/pseponline>

- Vermont Pesticide Safety Education: CORE Manual Review (no credit) (16)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 79% moderately/very prepared to take the exam (145% increase)
 - 100% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 94% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
- Vermont Pesticide Safety Education: CORE Manual Review, Unit #1 (1 credit) (4)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 88% moderately/very comfortable with the manual information (40% increase)
 - 88% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 88% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
 - “The review of integrated pest management and economic action thresholds was valuable.”
- Vermont Pesticide Safety Education: CORE Manual Review, Unit #2 (1 credit) (2)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 100% moderately/very comfortable with the manual information (43% increase)
 - 89% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 78% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
- Vermont Pesticide Safety Education: CORE Manual Review, Unit #3 (1 credit) (2)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 100% moderately/very comfortable with the manual information (40% increase)
 - 86% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 71% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
 - “It was helpful to review calibration.”

- Vermont Pesticide Safety Education: CORE Manual Review, Unit #4 (1 credit) (2)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 100% moderately/very comfortable with the manual information (50% increase)
 - 67% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 83% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
 - “Good review of storage and transport of pesticides.”
- Vermont Pesticide Education: Managing Pests While Protecting Pollinators (1 credit) (2)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 100% moderately/very comfortable with managing pests while protecting pollinators (13% increase)
 - 89% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 89% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
 - “Learning more about the wide variety of pollinators was super helpful. I learned quite a bit about neonicatoids with this presentation.”
 - ”I really liked learning all of the useful ways I can be helpful to my pollinator friends! I also found it very interesting that the pollinator decline predates neonicotinoids and I feel like that is the main issue we hear about, that the pesticides are the problem and very little talk about all of the other factors that could be contributing to the decline.”
- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 7A Manual Review (no credit) (7)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 86% moderately/very comfortable to take the exam (414% increase)
 - 100% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 100% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 7A Manual Review, Unit #1 (1 credit) (2)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 100% moderately/very comfortable with the manual information (25% increase)
 - 80% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 80% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 7A Manual Review, Unit #2 (1 credit) (1)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 100% moderately/very comfortable with the manual information (100% increase)
 - 50% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 75% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 7A Manual Review, Unit #3 (1 credit) (1)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 100% moderately/very comfortable with the manual information (25% increase)
 - 80% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 80% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 7A Manual Review, Unit #4 (1 credit) (1)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - 100% moderately/very comfortable with the manual information (0% increase)
 - 67% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 67% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 7F Manual Review (no credit) (2)
 - IMPACTS:**
 - na% moderately/very comfortable to take the exam
 - 100% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
 - 100% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice

- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 7F Manual Review (2 credit) (1)
- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 3B Manual Review (no credit) (3) *new*

IMPACTS:

- na% moderately/very comfortable to take the exam
- 100% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
- 100% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
- “This was such an informative and easy to follow along online course!”

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