

Pesticide Application Training Reform

By Randy Allen, Tartan Park G.C.

(Editor's Note: Randy Allen attended a meeting of the Department of Agriculture, December 16th, which discussed the restructuring of the current applicator training system.)

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The current system of certification and recertification for obtaining a pesticide license was discussed at a meeting

I attended for the MGCSA. Those in attendance included representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Plant-Food Chemical Association, U of M and other groups that this will affect.

Several different ideas on how to improve the system were discussed. The home correspondence course for recertification was a subject of much debate. It was felt that this method was not a good measure of competence. The EPA requires some kind of measurement for applicator training, and they are concerned about an unmonitored open book home exam not being a true test of competency. The workshop training format, on the other hand, can be monitored and the training documented.

It was the consensus of the subcommittee to reduce or eliminate the use of the correspondence course. Discussion on changes in the training recertification included several alternatives: offering monitored tests at more locations, raising the cost of the correspondence course to the same as a workshop, plus offering more workshops made available by the U of M and Dept. of Ag. They will also keep the recertification intervals the same. Any group who wants an interval change should present their case to the Dept. of Ag. and/or the U of M for consideration. Some other ideas that were discussed were: Length of the workshops, aerial applications, state reciprocity and video disc presentations.

There definitely will be changes in the current applicator training system. The nature and scope of these changes will depend on a series of these subcommittee meetings and their presentation to a full committee.

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Ski Outing At Lutsen

A scenic drive along the North Shore, and downhill and cross country skiing were on the agenda for the January meeting.

The modest number who participated enjoyed the camaraderie with fellow members and a great lunch buffet put on by the staff at Lutsen.

Thanks go out to Mike Davies and his staff for hosting the meeting. This beautiful area would make an ideal location for hosting a summer meeting.

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