

Collection of Unwanted Pesticides, March 23

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with University of Nebraska Extension, the Environmental Trust Fund, the Nebraska Agri-Business Association and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, will be holding a pesticide disposal collection day on Thursday, March 23 at the Farmers Cooperative Company Fertilizer Plant, Waverly.

Anyone with outdated or unwanted pesticides may bring them to the site from 8 a.m. until noon. Pesticides should be brought in their original containers with label intact if possible, but pesticides which no longer have readable labels will be accepted. No pre-registration is required. There is no charge for up to 500 pounds of product from individuals or firms. A small fee will be assessed for the amount over 500 pounds. Once received, the pesticides will be sorted and packaged for shipment to a certified incinerator for disposal.

Remember to protect yourself and your surroundings when handling waste pesticides. You may need to wear personal protective equipment or, as a minimum, unlined neoprene or nitrile gloves, when handling waste pesticides. If the pesticide container has been damaged, pack it in another container that will hold the product if the first container should rupture while being transported. Use a container that can be left at the collection site, if it becomes contaminated.

There are three main categories of pesticides accepted:

- Unused, unneeded, old or damaged pesticides (includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides and fumigants).
- Pesticides of all types (agricultural crops, livestock, homes, lawns, gardens, structural, commercial), including those in aerosol containers.
- Farmer-supplied electrical transformers containing PCB's from renovated irrigation systems.

Since different wastes need to be handled and disposed of differently, products that fit in one of the categories above are the only ones being accepted. Products not accepted include:

- Pesticide products in pressurized cylinders
- Waste oil or oil filters
- Antifreeze
- Paints, varnishes and thinners
- Cleaners and solvents

The Waverly site is one of only 18 sites across Nebraska selected for this pesticide collection program in 2007. Don't miss the opportunity to dispose of unwanted pesticides!

Computerized Farm Financial Recordkeeping, March 19

Over the years, Computerized Farm Financial Recordkeeping workshops have been one of the most popular in-depth programs offered by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension. This Spring, this workshop will be presented at six locations in southeast Nebraska. It will be held in Lincoln on Monday, March 19 from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road. Please pre-register before March 15.

Other locations and dates are:

- March 21—Nemaha NRD Office, Tecumseh (402-335-3669)
- March 22—Richardson County Courthouse, Falls City (402-245-4324)
- March 26—Clay Center Community meeting room, Clay Center (402-762-3644)
- March 27—Seward County Extension Office, Seward (402-643-2981)
- March 28—Dodge County Extension Office, Fremont (402-727-2775)

A brochure with a registration form is available online at <http://lanaster.unl.edu/ag/finanrec.pdf> or by calling 441-7180.

All workshops will be presented in a hands-on teaching style with participants sitting at computers performing the tasks being demonstrated. One extension educator will lead the discussion and the image from the instructor's computer will be projected on a screen. Other educators will circulate and give individual help as needed.

In addition to seeing the actions projected keystroke by keystroke, participants will also receive step-by-step written instructions for all tasks being demonstrated. These handouts are intended as a guide in the classroom and as references as participants set



Extension Educator Tom Dorn (right) assists a participant at a past Computerized Financial Recordkeeping workshop.

up their records at home.

Participants should have a basic familiarity with using a computer and typing on a computer keyboard. No prior computerized recordkeeping experience is necessary, however, some prior experience with a hand-kept single entry accounting system (such as the extension blue book) would be useful.

The concepts taught in this workshop are applicable to any of several inexpensive computerized recordkeeping programs, with slight modifications in procedure. This workshop will be taught hands-on using Quicken® 2007 Basic in the classroom.

Reference materials, lunch and refreshments are all included in the registration fee. The registration fee for each workshop is \$50. A second person sharing the same computer and sharing a single set of handouts can attend for an additional \$10 to cover lunch and refreshments.

Registration will be limited due to space and computer availability on a first-come, first-served basis. Preregistration must be received with payment in order to hold a place in the workshop.

Upcoming Pesticide Applicator Trainings

Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training

Commercial applicators are persons who apply restricted-use pesticides for any purpose on any property other than property owned or rented by the applicator or their employer or for hire or compensation. Commercial applicators shall also include any person who applies lawn care or structural pest control pesticides whether restricted- or general-use to property of another person. Public employees (employed by a town, county, state) applying mosquito control pesticides whether restricted- or general-use, must also hold a commercial or non-commercial certification.

To become licensed initially as a commercial applicator, one must pass a written examination in the general standards category and one or more additional categories. A commercial license is good for three years. Once licensed in a category, you can maintain commercial certification by attending a re-certification training session or by passing a written examination, with a few exceptions explained below.

UNL Extension offers Commercial Initial Certification and Recertification Training Sessions. Call the UNL Pesticide Education office at 472-1632 to register for a session. The training fee for either initial or recertification sessions is \$30. Note: Due to time and space limitations, only specific categories

will be presented on training days. Call the UNL Pesticide Education office at 472-1632 or the Lancaster County Extension office at 441-7180 to learn which specific categories will be offered on a given day.

Commercial applicators meeting the requirements for certification or re-certification will receive an invoice from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture for \$90 for the license fee.

NOTE: DUE TO TIME AND SPACE LIMITATIONS, ONLY SPECIFIC CATEGORIES WILL BE PRESENTED ON TRAINING DAYS. Call 472-1632 or 441-7180 to learn which specific categories will be offered on a given day.

Initial Commercial Certification training and testing sessions will be offered on Thursday, March 1 and Thursday, April 19 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. The general standards session will begin at 9 a.m. and other categories at 1 p.m. or 3 p.m.

It is highly recommended you obtain and review written study materials prior to attending the training session for initial certification. This will greatly improve your chances of passing the written examination. Study materials for all commercial categories may be purchased from the pesticide education office 101 Natural Resources Hall on East Campus, 472-1632 or materials can be purchased on the UNL Pesticide Education Web site at <http://pested.unl.edu>

Commercial Recertification Training Sessions will be offered on Tuesday, March 20 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. The general standards session will begin at 9 a.m. and other categories at 1 p.m. or 3 p.m.

Note: There are no certification training sessions for: Fumigation of Soil, Agricultural Pest Control - Animal, Forest Pest Control, Sewer Root Control with Metam Sodium, Seed Treatment, Regulatory Pest Control (subcategory) and Demonstration/Research Pest Control (subcategory). There are self-study materials which will prepare the applicator to take the examinations in these categories. The only way to certify or re-certify in these categories is to pass a written examination.

Chemigation Training and Testing, March 13

Chemigation is the term used to describe any process whereby chemicals are applied to land or crops in or with water through an on-farm irrigation distribution system. State law requires the person overseeing a chemigation application to be certified as a Chemigator by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. In order to be certified as a Chemigator, a person must attend a training session and pass a written test. The test covers knowledge of the Chemigation law in Nebraska, the required equipment at the injection site, calibration of the injection equipment and personal, as well as, environmental safety.

A Chemigation training and testing session will be held on Tuesday, March 13 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. This session meets the requirements for initial certification of chemigators and recertification of chemigators whose certification is expiring in 2007. The training fee for initial chemigators is \$20 and includes the Chemigation notebook. The fee for recertification is \$15. If you need a replacement Chemigation notebook, one can be purchased for \$5. Studying the information contained in the notebook prior to the training session will increase the likelihood of passing the exam. You can obtain a notebook at the extension office by preregistering for the training session and paying the training fee.

Note: The Nebraska Chemigation law also states each injection site must have a current permit issued by the NRD. New chemigation sites must be inspected to check for the presence of all required safety devices before the NRD will issue a permit. Permits are valid for one year and must be renewed by paying a renewal fee to the NRD. The NRD also conducts spot checks of permitted chemigation sites to check the condition of safety equipment. Contact the NRD office to obtain a permit for the site(s) you want the option of chemigating in 2007. The NRD will collect a fee for each permit issued.