



Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Division of Agricultural Resources

Pesticides and Water Quality
Education Project for Idaho

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Introduction

The purpose of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Pesticides and Water Quality Education project is to further educate pesticide applicators and citizens for the protection of ground and surface water quality from pesticide contamination. This project compliments the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho, the ISDA Ground and Surface Water Pesticide Program and the Idaho Pesticide Management Plan (PMP).

Ground water projects have been started in areas of Idaho with the highest probability for pesticide leaching or known pesticide use. These project areas were prioritized for importance and interest. The projects with ground water pesticide concentrations approaching or exceeding health standards were the focus of our educational efforts.

Educational efforts have been in the form of workshops, conferences and educational materials, such as pamphlets, brochures and fact sheets. The education materials were supplemental materials to the workshops and conferences, however, they were also distributed to pesticide applicators and the general public via mailings, newsletters, and the internet.

Educational workshops and conferences will continue to be held throughout the state. Additional educational materials will be created and new and existing educational materials will continue to be disseminated to the agriculture community and the general public.

Results

Brochures, Reports, Summaries, and Newsletters

A series of brochures, reports, and newsletters were produced by the ISDA Water Section staff on a variety of pesticide related topics in 2004 and 2005. The fact

sheets summarized ground water pesticide detections in various geographical locations in Idaho where agriculture is the dominant land use.

In 2005, a fact sheet was created to summarize pesticide uses and the leachability ratings for the 30 pesticides that are listed as pesticides of national concern by the EPA. The pesticide leachability fact sheet was developed to provide applicators with a general guide and to educate applicators and the public of these issues. The information in this fact sheet is still pertinent and was continued to be disseminated in 2006 to pesticide applicators and the general public. One new fact sheet on pesticide detections was created in 2006. This fact sheet was for Payette and Gem Counties and summarized pesticide detections and Idaho's Pesticide Management Plan.

These fact sheets were designed to educate local pesticide applicators of specific pesticides that had leached into their local ground water.

ISDA mailed the fact sheets to pesticide applicators registered with ISDA's pesticide license program. The fact sheets that dealt with a specific geographical region were sent to pesticide applicators within the same geographical region. All of the pesticide applicators who received a summary of pesticide detections in their county also received the pesticide leachability fact sheet. The fact sheets are also available on ISDA's website.

ISDA's Water Section also handed out brochures to pesticide applicators at workshops around the state. The brochures are currently available on ISDA's website.

In addition, articles regarding the PMP Rule and elevated pesticide detections were included in the June 2005 and May 2006 volumes of the *Pesticide Updates!* newsletter. The newsletter was distributed to all licensed pesticide applicators in Idaho.

Table 1. Pesticide and Water Quality Workshop information.

Pesticides and Water Quality Education Project - Workshops			
Date	Location	Event Name	Attendance
12/15/2005	Marsing	Owyhee County Farmer's Appreciation Day	27
1/10/2006	Jackpot, NV	Far West Winter Conference	109
1/20/2006	Boise	Idaho Horticulture Expo	48
1/31/2006	Caldwell	Western Idaho Agriculture Show	48
2/2/2006	Nampa	Idaho Weed Conference	25
2/7/2006	Lewiston	Extension Cereal School	24
2/8/2006	Moscow	Latah County Cereal School	39
2/9/2006	Greencreek	Prairie Area Cereal School	96
2/17/2006	Ontario, OR	Chemical Fruit Fair	53
2/23/2006	Weiser	Applicator Seminar	32
3/3/2006	Lewiston	Pesticide Applicator Recertification Workshop	30
3/20/2006	St. Anthony	Water Quality Pesticide Recertification Workshop	21
3/21/2006	Ashton	Water Quality Pesticide Recertification Workshop	29
3/22/2006	Fort Hall	Water Quality Pesticide Recertification Workshop	7
3/22/2006	Blackfoot	Water Quality Pesticide Recertification Workshop	16
3/29/2006	Bonnors Ferry	Pesticide Applicator Recertification Workshop	27
3/29/2006	Sandpoint	Pesticide Applicator Recertification Workshop	31
5/5/2006	Challis	Pesticide Applicator Recertification Workshop	
Total Attendance			662

Workshops, Conferences, and Schools

Another objective of this project is to conduct education outreach through workshops and conferences (Table 1). These were mostly pesticide recertification workshops, conferences, or special schools that ISDA staff organized or participated in. Training topics included: water quality, water quality monitoring results, Idaho PMP rules, Idaho Home*A*Syst Program, understanding pesticide labels, regional or local specific issues and reports, integrated pest management, weed management, and ISDA container recycling and pesticide disposal programs. Events were held in Ashton, St. Anthony, Blackfoot, Fort Hall, Caldwell, Nampa, Boise, Marsing, Lewiston, Moscow, Greencreek, Weiser, Bonnors Ferry, Sandpoint, Challis, Ontario, OR, and Jackpot, NV (Table 1).

A total of 662 pesticide applicators were trained at the events held in 2005 and 2006 (Table 1). The number of workshop attendees is actually greater than the reported 662, however, the attendance is only tracked for pesticide applicators as they receive credits towards their application licenses for completion of workshops.

Conclusions

This project has provided education to the general public as well as to pesticide applicators about protecting Idaho ground and surface water quality from pesticides. Education is vital to continuing the effort of protecting Idaho's water quality and the health of Idaho's citizens. The success of this project has been measured by the number of workshops, location of the workshops, numbers of applicators in attendance, materials produced, and quality of materials produced. Several pesticide applicators have contacted ISDA after receiving the pesticide educational materials, to provide ISDA with additional information about pesticide use in their areas. Many have requested additional information regarding pesticide leachability and protection of ground and surface water.

Communication with pesticide applicators is active and is continuing to increase. An increase in communication and education will no doubt assist in the protection of ground and surface water from pesticide impacts. ISDA is hoping to improve the evaluation of the impacts of these educational efforts in the future. It is

important to evaluate the impact of this project in the future, in order to better evaluate the success of these efforts.

Acknowledgements

This is an important program for the protection of Idaho's ground water. This effort has led to valuable information for our agency, land owners, applicators, homeowners, registrants, and the agricultural industry in general.

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