



**The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance
Presents 2024 Program Excellence Award**

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St. Louis, MO — The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA) held its annual conference in February and presented the **Program Excellence Award to The Pennsylvania State University Pesticide Education Program**. Jon Johnson, Director of Pesticide Education, accepted the award on behalf of the team. The Pennsylvania State University's Pesticide Education Program is responsible for the creation and delivery of educational resources for pesticide applicators across the commonwealth. These resources help to certify and maintain licensing of these pesticide applicators across various industrial sectors, including agriculture. It takes significant investment and effort to address the needs of each unique category and without these teaching tools the safety of our applicators, consumers, and the environment would be compromised.

A focus and commitment to providing educational materials and opportunities including:

- Development of certification manuals and exam question banks.
- Online precertification training courses
- Participation in precertification training events (in-person, webinars)
From October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023 the team taught at 11 separate Pesticide Applicator Short Courses (precertification training).

- Development of Pesticide Applicator Short Course training materials. Developed instructional PowerPoint series for Category 10: Right-of-Way and Weeds.
- Pesticide license recertification training (in-person, webinars, online, correspondence)
Pesticide Education staff taught at 53 recertification events (in-person or webinars), provided 99 talks, and reached 7,360 individuals. Approximately 1,016 online recertification courses developed or co-developed by the program were completed by certified pesticide applicators. A total of 680 correspondence courses offering recertification credits were sold. All exams returned were processed and reported to PDA by this team.
- Creation of pesticide recertification materials, generally on core-related topics
- Conduct special programming such as respirator fit testing, on-farm airblast and boom sprayer calibration, and FieldWatch (communication network for applicators, beekeepers, and growers).
- The Respirator Fit Test Program offers free respirator fit tests conducted by a third-party occupational health and safety provider. A total of 82 pesticide applicators were fit tested across 6 separate events organized by this team.

The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA), founded in 2000, is an organization of federal, state, and local governmental agencies, educational and research institutions, public organizations, private corporations, and individuals that are actively involved in different aspects of pesticide stewardship. The goals of TPSA are to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and longevity of various pesticide stewardship efforts.

Please check the [TPSA](#) web site for more information. The 2025 Pesticide Stewardship Conference is scheduled for February 4-6 in Charleston, South Carolina.

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