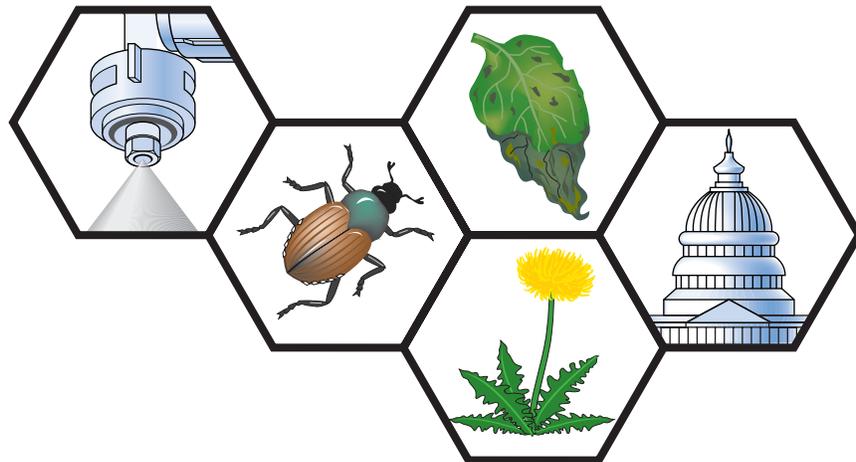


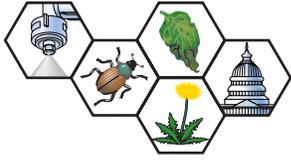
**University of Illinois  
Extension**

**Pesticide Safety  
Education Program**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2016-2017**





Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program

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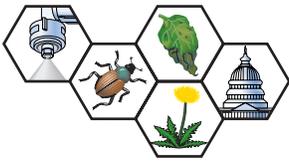
Prepared by: Travis Cleveland, Jean Miles, Phil Nixon, David Robson, Michelle Wiesbrook, Matt Gill, Patty Bingaman,

May 2018 (Reflects activities from July 2016 through June 2017)



# Program Highlights and Impacts

- 40 Clinics Offered
  - 2 State Agency Clinics
  - 23 Commercial Applicator Clinics
  - 11 Private Applicator Clinics
  - 4 Commercial Test-Only Clinics
- A total of 10,517 people received pesticide certification training
  - 9,409 Commercial Applicators and Operators
  - 1,108 Private Applicators
- Two training manuals were revised and published
  - Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Manual: Turfgrass
  - Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Manual: Mosquito
- Six issues of *The Illinois Pesticide Review* newsletter were published
  - The online newsletter received 43,824 pages visits
- The PSEP Office processed 9,217 training clinic registrations. The online registration option continued to provide 24-hour access to easy and efficient registration for clinic attendees. Clientele also continued to have the options of registering by mail or by phone. Telephone calls placed during business hours were provided personal service. Calls placed after business hours were greeted with an automated telephone service.
- The PSEP Office processed orders for 5,998 Pesticide Applicator Training Manuals and Workbooks. An additional 953 publications were sold during pesticide applicator clinics.
- Patty Bingaman, Phil Nixon and David Robson retired from the Univesity of Illinois
- Matt Gill was hired as the program's Application Equipment Specialist



## Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program

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# Program Mandate

## Authority

Illinois law, in accordance with the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act, requires that anyone who purchases or uses pesticides classified as “restricted use” must be certified as a commercial pesticide applicator or operator, or a private (farmer) pesticide applicator. In addition, those who apply “general use” pesticides commercially must also be certified. The responsibilities of the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) and University of Illinois Extension (Extension) in pesticide certification and training are clearly defined. The IDA, as lead agency, has responsibility for the certification and issuing of permits or licenses to persons who apply pesticides. Extension, working in cooperation with IDA staff, is responsible for conducting educational training programs for private, commercial, and non-commercial pesticide applicators and operators.

## Purpose

Since 1966, Extension has been conducting training schools for private applicators, and commercial agricultural and urban operators and applicators. The purpose is to train applicators and operators in the proper and safe use of pesticides to prevent misuse and to avoid accidents. In addition to keeping applicators up-to-date on new developments in both chemical and nonchemical pest control methods, the training sessions help to prepare applicants to pass the certification examinations required for obtaining a license. This quality pesticide safety education is ultimately vital to Illinois residents in terms of public health protection and environmental stewardship.

## Support

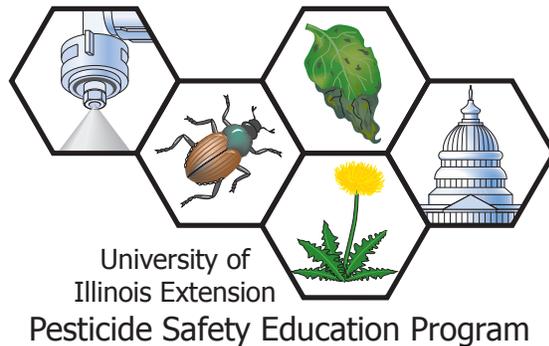
Initial funding for the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) through the USDA Federal Extension Service, starting in 1974. These funds have been reduced over the years in amount and also in value due to inflation.

The Pesticide Control Fund, approved by the Illinois State Legislature in August 1985, provides funds to the IDA “for the purpose of conducting a public educational program on the proper use of pesticides and for other activities related to the enforcement of this act.” This fund provides the bulk of the dollars needed to conduct educational programs related to the safe and proper use of pesticides.

# State Lead Agency Cooperation

Since 1998, the PSEP team has worked with the Illinois Department of Agriculture to review exam questions (based on our PSEP manuals) for use in the certification process. As a result, both parties feel more comfortable with the exams given to our clients. During the past year, PSEP assisted the IDA in reviewing exam questions on new aquatics and general standards certification exams.

Close interaction with the Illinois Department of Agriculture regarding the number of attendees at each clinic and other operational issues results in consistent information from both training and testing personnel to our PSEP clinic attendees.



**ILLINOIS**

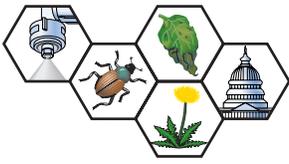
Extension

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER  
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**



**Illinois**  
Department of  
**Agriculture**





Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program

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## PSEP Specialists



**Patty Bingaman**

Extension Assistant, PSEP Program Facilitator  
Department of Crop Sciences

Coordinates PSEP clinics. Conducts clinic preregistration and PSEP publication distribution. Maintains financial accounts, develops new databases, and prepares special reports and brochures. Coordinates acquisition, reprinting, and marketing of PSEP study material.

*Patty retired from the University of Illinois August, 2016*



**Jean Miles**

PSEP Office Assistant  
Department of Crop Sciences

Facilitates operational functions of the PSEP team including publication data, processing orders along with the monetary obligations. Handles the telephone queries and collects program registrations.



**Matt Gill**

Outreach Specialist, Application Equipment  
Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Provides subject matter expertise and training in pesticide application equipment and calibration. Conducts special aerial calibration clinics and pesticide drift reduction programs.

<https://abe.illinois.edu/directory/gill14>



**Travis Cleveland**

Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology  
Department of Crop Sciences

Provides subject matter expertise and training in pesticide training with an emphasis on plant pathology. Provides diagnostic support for the UI Plant Clinic. Coordinates annual report.

<https://cropsciences.illinois.edu/people/profile/tclevela>

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**Phil Nixon**

Extension Specialist, Entomologist  
Department of Crop Sciences

Provides subject matter expertise and training in entomology. Coordinates grant proposals, state and federal reports, and other reports and summaries. Structural pest control liaison with the Illinois Department of Public Health. Co-coordinates Commercial and Private PSEP trainer scheduling.

*Phil retired from the University of Illinois May 2017*



**David Robson**

Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety - Horticulture  
Department of Crop Sciences

Provides subject matter expertise and training in pesticide safety and horticulture. Co-coordinates social media. Co-coordinates Worker Protection Standard training. Co-coordinates Private Pesticide training. Co-coordinates Commercial and Private PSEP trainer scheduling.

*David retired from the University of Illinois July 2017*

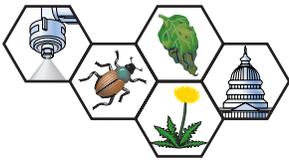


**Michelle Wiesbrook**

Extension Specialist, Weed Science  
Department of Crop Sciences

Provides subject matter expertise and training in pesticide safety with an emphasis on horticultural weed science. Serves as IPR newsletter editor, collecting and organizing material; co-coordinates social media information and ensures its timely publication. Co-coordinates Illinois' Worker Protection Standard training. Facilitates accreditation of trainings through various professional organizations

<https://cropsciences.illinois.edu/people/profile/buesinge>



Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program

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## Steering Committee

The PSEP Steering Committee represents the two departments housing PSEP Specialists as well as off-campus staff, serving in program administration and advisory capacities as various opportunities and challenges arise. The committee members are familiar with the PSEP program and its mission. They represent the interests of their disciplines, associated clientele, and departments, with a variety of expertise, experiences, and perspectives.



### **Germán Bollero**

Chair of the PSEP Steering Committee

Professor, Head of the Department of Crop Sciences



### **Tom Voigt**

Professor of Turfgrass, Landscape, and Energy Grasses

Department of Crop Sciences Representative

# Support Trainers

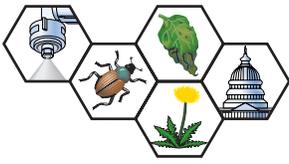
The following professional educators assisted PSEP specialists with Private Applicator Training Clinics and Commercial Applicator Training Clinics. We thank them for their support.

- Kelly Allsup
- Bruce Black
- Chris Enroth
- Dennis Epplin
- Laurie George
- Doug Gucker
- Richard Hentschel
- Russ Higgins
- Kari Houle
- Nathan Johanning
- Ken Johnson
- Jim Morrison
- Marion Shier
- Martha Smith
- James Theuri
- Elizabeth Wahle



Dennis Epplin (above) and Jim Morrison (right) assisting with Private Applicator Training





Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program

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# Pesticide Safety Education Program

## Administrative Office

The University of Illinois Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) maintains an office to carry out needed administrative and secretarial functions. Close interaction with the Illinois Department of Agriculture regarding specific clinic operations results in consistent information from both training and testing personnel to our PSEP clinic attendees.

### Clientele Communication Options

Pesticide Safety Education Program clientele have multiple options available to help register for training clinics or purchase educational materials. The PSEP website ([www.pesticidesafety.illinois.edu](http://www.pesticidesafety.illinois.edu)) provides links to a convenient “one stop shop” for clinic registration and ordering of study material. The system was designed specifically for PSEP and has been viewed as the leading registration/ordering system in Extension. Clientele can also access the online training programs through the PSEP website.

In addition, the telephone system includes 24-hour voice mail, an automated attendant to assist the caller in selecting which option is needed and a direct rollover option to the Illinois Department of Agriculture. There are currently 56 voice mail lines so that a busy signal does not occur. With the high volume of in-coming calls (over 12,000 during this reporting period) this telephone system helps to direct patrons to the phone service they need in a timely manner. Many customers still want to be reassured that their online registration was received and is being processed.

Commercial and Private schedules, plus other pertinent clinic information is also available on the University of Illinois Pesticide Safety Education website. A listing of PSEP publications including the most recent publication date is available on this site. Clients have the added option to print and mail the forms to register for clinics and/or order study materials.

## **Educational Materials**

The PSEP Office conducts the sale and distribution of over 35 manuals, workbooks and pest guides. Customer response is positive because they are able to register and/or order desired material with one action, either via telephone or our online system. Mailing of requested educational materials is promised within 72 hours; however, this is usually accomplished within the same day. The number of publications sold from the PSEP office during the 2016-2017 season was 5,998. An additional 953 publications were sold at private and commercial clinics last season.

## **Clinic Registration**

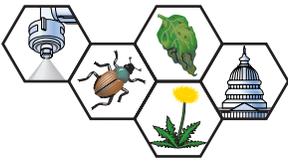
Forty clinics were scheduled for the 2016-2017 applicator training season. The majority of the clinics, 23, were for commercial applicators, while 11 clinics were conducted for private applicators. Two state agency clinics were held prior to the season. State agency clinics provided additional training and testing opportunities for applicators employed by the Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, etc. Four test only sessions were also conducted at various times during the training season.

During the 2016-2017 training season, 7,995 Commercial registrations were processed in the PSEP office resulting in a training volume of 9,409. Additionally, 1,222 Private transactions lead to a private training volume of 1,108. A total of 10,517 people received pesticide safety training during the 2016-2017 training season.

## **Financial Accountability**

An additional responsibility of the PSEP office is the monitoring of receivables. At this printing, all outstanding payments have been resolved. This is accomplished by the combination of on-going database management plus the utilization of set office procedures.

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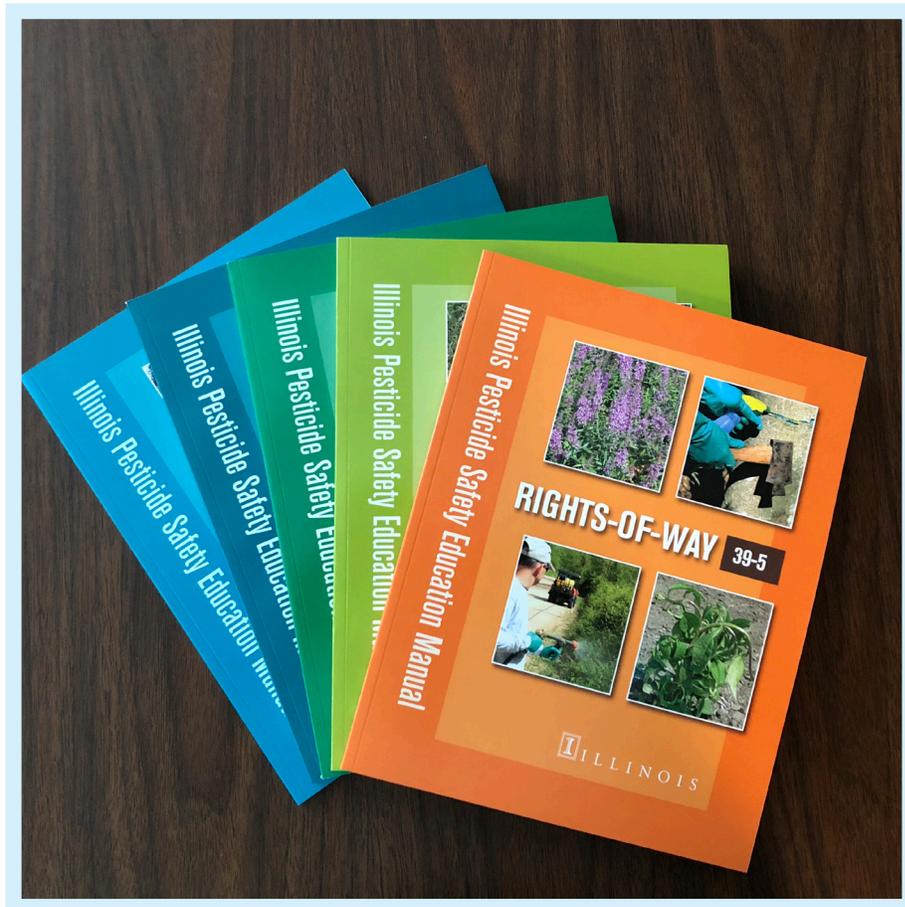


Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program

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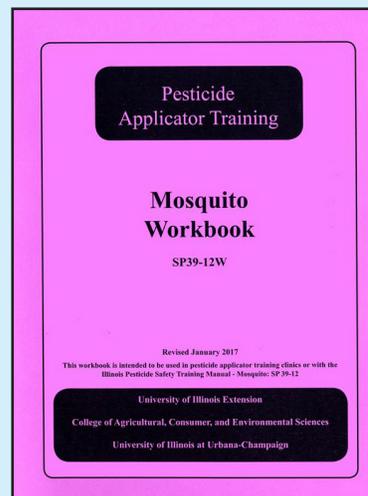
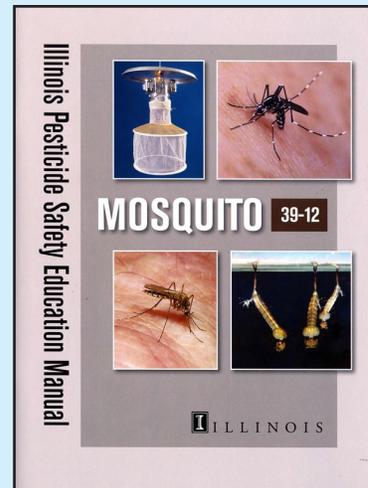
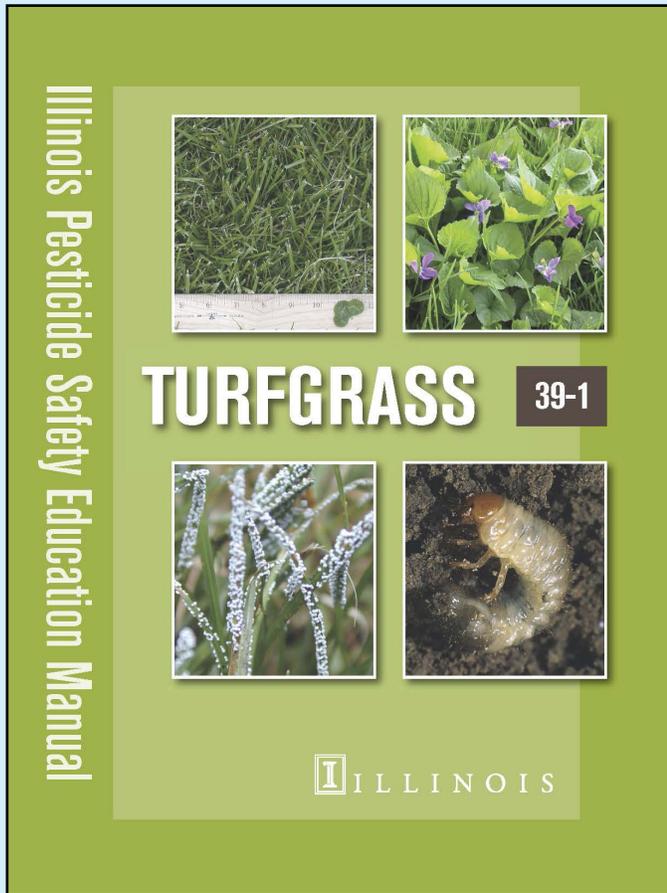
## Educational Materials

University of Illinois PSEP publishes twenty-one manuals that address most areas of pesticide certification in Illinois. Ten workbooks are produced to cover the twelve most commonly licensed areas. Our manuals and workbooks continue to be used not only as references and learning tools before and during training clinics, but also as self-tutorial guides for those who wish to study on their own. These publications allow us to educate more operators and applicators than those who attend PSEP clinics.



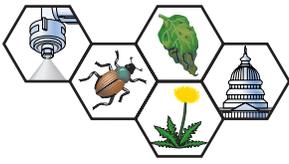
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## Recently Revised Publications



## Revised Training Manuals, Workbooks and Presentations

The Turfgrass Manual, Mosquito Manual, Mosquito Workbook, Private Applicator Workbook, and Ornamentals and Turf Workbook were revised and published during this reporting period. Commercial clinic presentations were revised for General Standards, Field Crops, Grain Facility, Rights-of-Way, Ornamentals, Turfgrass, and Mosquito.



## Commercial PSEP Clinics

Pesticide Training and Certification Clinics for commercial applicators and operators were conducted at 26 sites during 2016-2017 training season. During the training season, 9,409 commercial applicators and operators received training (See Table 1). In addition to the General Standards, training was offered for the following categories: Field Crops, Turf, Ornamentals, Rights-of-Way, Aquatics, Seed Treatment, Demonstration and Research and Mosquito.

General Standards trainings covered 8 topics over a 3.5 hour session. Training topics included: Understanding Pesticides, Pesticide Application Equipment and Drift Reduction, Human Pesticide Protection, Equipment Calibration and Examples, Integrated Pest Management, Pesticides and the Environment, Labels and Labeling, and Pesticide Laws and Regulations.

Category trainings ranged from 1.5 hours to 3.5 hours in duration. Topics covered during the training sessions were specific to the category.

Training clinic attendees were offered a workbook. Workbooks were formatted as “guided notes” to encourage engagement, highlight important points from the presentations, and to facilitate full and accurate notes. University of Illinois Extension Pesticide Safety Educators presented the various topics and were available to respond to any questions.

### Trainers

PSEP Specialists conducted the training clinics. Extension Educators and other Extension Specialists throughout the state also assisted with the trainings. PSEP Specialists provided assistance to the training efforts of these Extension Educators by furnishing PowerPoint presentations, notes, and other training materials. This afforded additional educational contacts for the participating Extension Educators and allowed the campus-based staff to pursue additional activities. All mosquito category training sessions were conducted by specialists employed by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

### Evaluation

Teaching evaluations are occasionally conducted during General Standards trainings with the goal of identifying strengths and weaknesses within the program. Evaluation questions focus on the clinic registration process, the quality of individual sections within the General Standards training as well as the quality of the program as whole. Evaluations from year to year consistently show satisfaction and utility of the program.

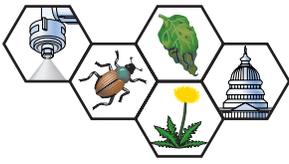
## Continuing Education Units

Clinic attendees received continuing education points from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) for both Turf and General Standards trainings. International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) members received educational credits for attending the Ornamentals category training. Many of our clients are Certified Crop Advisors and received CCA education credits for Field Crops and Seed Treatment. The Illinois Dept. of Public Health issued CEUs for completion of General Standards training.

**Table 1. Attendance by Category for 2016-2017 Commercial PSEP Clinics**

CLINIC DATE	LOCATION	GS	S	T	O	FC	D&R	MOS	ROW	AQ	TOTAL
Nov. 9-10	Springfield	77							63		140
Nov. 14-15	Mt. Vernon	284	26			52			71		433
Nov. 29-30	Sandwich	94	9			27					130
Dec. 6-7	Peoria	197				46			20		263
Dec. 8-9	Springfield	138	31			38					207
Dec. 13-14	Jacksonville	116				29					145
Dec. 19-20	Champaign	363	77			129	14				583
Jan. 5-6	Champaign	331	64		37				62		494
Jan. 9-10	Rockford	288		73	38						399
Jan. 12-13	Mt Vernon	288		33	22			25	43		411
Jan. 18	Peoria IFCA	56									56
Jan. 24-25	Skokie	161		48	21					19	249
Jan. 26-27	Matteson	199		73	17					18	307
Feb. 1-2	Crystal Lake	282		98	44				68		492
Feb. 7-8	Alsip	278		80	38				53		449
Feb. 14-15	Springfield	379		69	40				79		567
Feb. 21-22	Collinsville	366		90	28				138	24	646
Mar. 7-8	Skokie	312		106	32				33		483
Mar. 14-15	Rockford	297		68	25			41	78		509
Mar. 22-23	Moline	275		46	20				61		402
Mar. 28-29	Peoria	327		97	28					21	473
Apr. 4-5	Matteson	269		58	11			31	47		416
Apr. 11-12	Alsip	212		55	23			23	31		344
Apr. 18-19	Collinsville	203						76	75		354
May 2-3	Des Plaines	236		30				13	28		307
May 9-10	Springfield	114						36			150
<b>Total</b>		<b>6142</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>9409</b>

GS=General Standards; PM=Plant Management; S=Seed Treatment; T=Turfgrass; O=Ornamentals; FC=Field Crops; D&R=Demonstration & Research; MOS=Mosquito; ROW=Rights-of-Way; AQ=Aquatics



Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program

## Online Training Courses

A variety of interactive online training programs are available to assist applicators preparing for category exams. These courses also serve to expand training opportunities to areas of the state where on-site training is not feasible.

The training modules are scripted, as well as voiced. Lessons are self-paced and can be completed in approximately 3 hours. Users can choose to finish them all at once or over the course of several days. Additionally, participants can review any of the previously accessed modules. Training modules cost \$15.

During this reporting period, commercial applicators were able to prepare for the **Plant Management**, **Grain Facility** and **Vegetable Crops** category exams using online training courses. A new online training course for **Demonstration and Research** was published spring 2017.

### Demonstration and Research (New for 2017)

The Demonstration and Research training course is designed for people who demonstrate safe and effective use of pesticides to public, as well as for people who supervise or conduct field research with pesticides. Training modules include: Laws and Regulations, Pesticide Characteristics, Experimental Design, Calibration, and Plant Injury Diagnosis.



### Plant Management



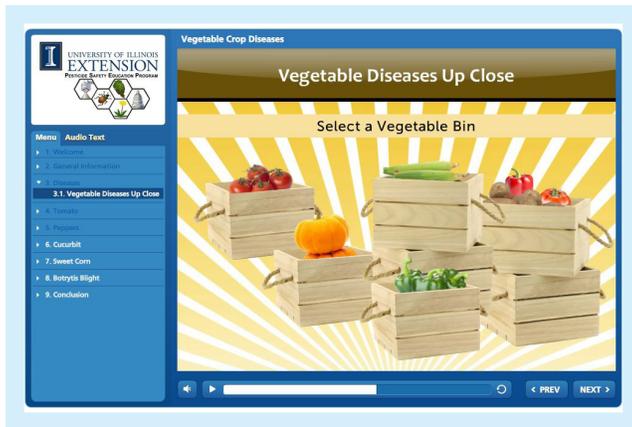
Plant Management is geared towards commercial applicators managing interiorscapes. Training modules include: cultural requirements and stress management; common insect and disease pests and their controls; and application equipment and calibration.

## Grain Facility

The Grain Facility course covers topics related to stored grain pest management and is for those who manage pests around grain elevators or other grain holding facilities. The convenient online course helps prepare applicators for the Grain Facility category exam. Private Applicators, who plan to fumigate their own grain, can use an abbreviated version of this training course to prepare for the Grain Fumigation exam. Modules include: insect identification and control; storage molds of grains; and rodent and bird pests.



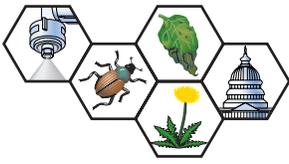
## Vegetable Crops



The Vegetable Crops online training modules were developed to provide applicators with the knowledge needed to pass the Vegetable Crops category exam. The training covers four areas – Diseases, Insects, Weed Management, and Application Equipment and Calibration.

The diseases module deals with the common diseases of cucurbits, tomatoes and peppers, and sweet corn. The

Insect module includes chewing and sucking insects, focusing on the pests for specific vegetables. Weed management deals with the issues involved with controlling weeds as well as a few weeds for identification. Application Equipment and Calibration deals with the current innovations in spray applications, and basic calibration equations.



# Private Applicator Training Clinics

Private Applicator clinics are designed for grain farmers, orchardists, and small acreage farmers (vineyards, vegetable growers, etc.) who apply restricted-use pesticides on their properties or managed lands. While similar to General Standards training, Private Applicator clinics put an added emphasis on changing technology, modes-of-action and reducing pesticide resistance, environmental issues including drift and stewardship with emphasis on protecting pollinators, and human pesticide protection.

Private Applicator training clinics are taught by University PSEP staff members with assistance from local county Extension educators and retired regional Extension educators. Private pesticide testing occurs immediately after training, with an average passing rate greater than 95%.

Private applicator training and recertification needs were met with 11 regional training clinics and 30+ test-only clinics. The use of larger venues (200-250 person capacity) helped to compensate for the reduced number of training locations from the 90+ offered in previous years.

**Table 2. Attendance for 2016-2017 Private Applicator Trainings Clinics**

Clinic Date	Location	# Clinic Attendees
Nov. 16	Mt. Vernon	80
Dec. 15	Champaign	120
Jan. 4	Springfield	96
Jan. 19	Bloomington	143
Feb. 3	Kankakee	73
Feb. 9	Galesburg	101
Feb. 16	Quincy	79
Feb. 23	Collinsville	95
Feb. 28	Effingham	162
Mar. 2	Lincoln	87
Mar. 24	Moline	72
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1108</b>

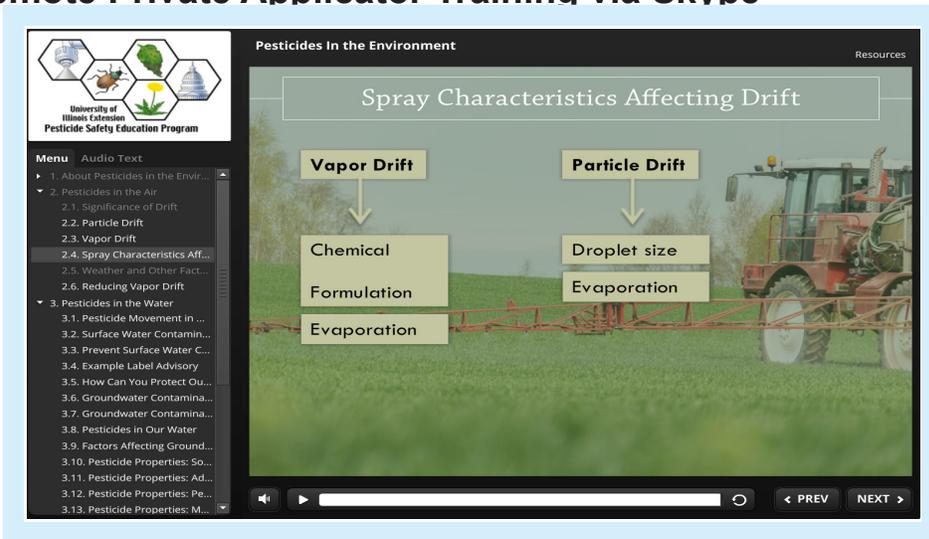


## Online Private Applicator Training (Newly Revised)

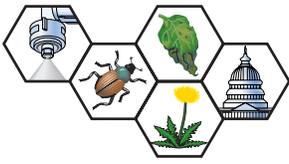
The online Private Applicator Training was completely revised prior to the start of the 2016 training season. The training modules were reformatted, and numerous new pictures were added as well as new interactive activities. This online training course allows a person to obtain training without attending a training clinic or working through the Private Applicator Training Manual and Workbook. Access is through a password obtained after the online training fee is paid. The training is organized into the same topics as the manual and face-to-face training. Presentation typically consists of an illustration or photo with accompanying written and narrated text. Slide progression is controlled by the trainee so participants can go back to visit previous slides as well as skip slides with familiar content. Testing is not available online. The trainee makes arrangements to take the test at a testing only session or at an IDA office. There were 100 registrations for the Online Private Applicator Training during the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The Online Private Applicator Training is also available in “mobile friendly” format, allowing users to view the program using a smart phone or tablet. A spanish translation of the revised private applicator training will be available in spring 2018.

## Live Remote Private Applicator Training via Skype



Two live remote private applicator training sessions were conducted via Skype. Remote training was given on a trial basis to explore options to provide training to underserved areas. The training sessions had a combined 137 attendees. Feedback from the attendees was positive.

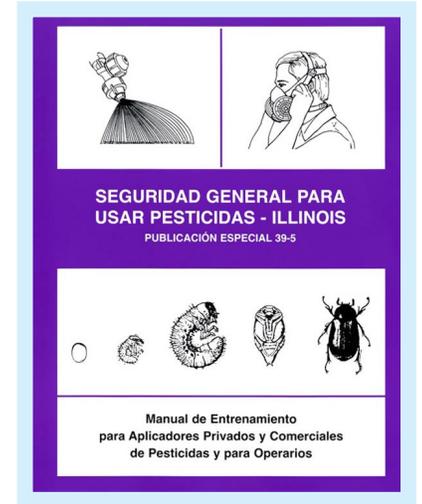


Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program

## Bilingual Training

Hispanic clientele are progressively becoming a larger proportion of our clientele. Many have excellent English language skills and are fully capable of understanding training and testing in English. Others have difficulty with English, but still must pass an English written exam to obtain pesticide certification due to most pesticide labels being in English only.

In previous years, we provided separate Bilingual General Standards Training Clinics in the Chicago metropolitan area. The presentations consisted of short passages of spoken English followed immediately by the spoken Spanish translation. This method served the dual purpose of conveying the information so that it is understood and increased the understanding of English. Unfortunately, face to face bilingual clinics have been discontinued due to poor attendance. Individuals seeking bilingual training are directed to the Spanish version of our Online Private Applicator Training.



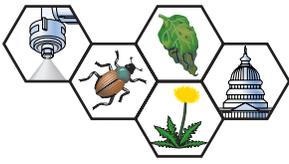
## Worker Protection Standard

David Robson and Michelle Wiesbrook coordinate the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) efforts. We continue to offer WPS cards to those handlers who attend trainings but don't need a pesticide license. We also work to inform employers, employees, IDA inspectors, and educators about the WPS through newsletter articles and during PSEP clinics. They keep up-to-date on new developments through training sessions, new publications, e-mail, and other methods.

## Operation S.A.F.E. Fly-ins

The purpose of an Operation S.A.F.E. fly-in is to make sure aerial applications are made accurately and safely. At a fly-in clinic, an aerial applicator can view the spray pattern, determine effective swath width, and examine the spray droplet size created by the aircraft. If corrections need to be made, the applicator can make adjustments to the aircraft setup and then immediately re-run the aircraft over the flight line to verify that the changes have improved the spray pattern or droplet size. In many cases an aerial applicator may run multiple series over the flight line, checking the different setups they use for the various spray application rates they use throughout the course of a spraying season. For instance, nozzle orifice size, nozzle deflection angle, and the number of nozzles used on the boom can vary depending on the GPA (gallons per acre) that the applicator is setting the aircraft up to apply.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number Aircraft Tested</b>	<b>Number of Test Runs</b>
July 1, 2016	Sheldon, IL	1	3
October 27, 2016	Burns, OR	2	6
November 1-2, 2016	Clewiston, FL	10	72
April 12, 2017	Le Seur, MN	2	10
April 19-20, 2017	Lawrenceville, IL	4	42
May 17-18, 2017	Clark, SD	4	33
May 19, 2017	Highmore, SD	3	24
May 22-23, 2017	Mattoon, IL	15	99
May 31, 2017	Winamac, IN	8	30
June 9-10, 2017	Lawrenceville, IL	1	9
June 13, 2017	Rochelle, IL	9	60
June 15, 2017	Astoria, IL	6	18



Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program

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## Mass Media

Through radio, television, newspapers, and magazines, PSEP specialists increased client knowledge of proper pesticide application, new developments in human and environmental pesticide safety, and recently enacted rules and regulations. Newspaper and magazine articles were published as the result of news interviews or news releases produced by PSEP specialists. Radio programs were used to promote proper pesticide use.

### Illinois Pesticide Review

Six issues of The Illinois Pesticide Review newsletter were published this year. This bimonthly newsletter is written by PSEP specialists to address pesticide safety issues, regulatory information, and changes in pesticide registration and label status. Each issue contains at least one in-depth article addressing current pesticide issues or pesticide-related activities. The newsletter is available on the Pesticide Safety Education website. There were 43,824 visits to the Illinois Pesticide Review website during this reporting period.

### PSEP Website

The Pesticide Safety Education website ([www.pesticidesafety.illinois.edu](http://www.pesticidesafety.illinois.edu)) continues to provide up-to-date information. The site features fact sheets, tips, links to relevant websites and resources, The Illinois Pesticide Review newsletter, an online registration system for clinics and an online ordering system for training manuals and workbooks.

These efforts serve to keep clientele up-to-date about pesticide safety issues outside of the PSEP clinics that they attend. Important information is communicated to the clientele when it is needed. In addition, many homeowners and other Illinois residents learn how to apply pesticides correctly and safely in and around their homes. There were 339,959 “page views” on the website during this report year.

<b>Table 4. Total Views for Various Pages Associated with the Pesticide Safety Education Program Website July 2016 - June 2017</b>	
Pesticide Safety Education Program Homepage	339,959
Online Private Applicator Training (English)	239,850
Online Private Applicator Training (Spanish)	6,712
Illinois Pesticide Review Newsletter	43,824

## Facebook

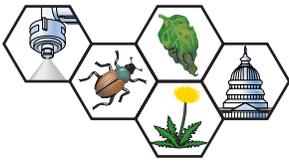
The PSEP Facebook page continues to grow in its use. It provides yet another avenue for timely information to be delivered to pesticide users and other interested parties. It also serves a platform for clients to have their pest control questions answered by PSEP Specialists.

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## Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program

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# Homeowner Programs

Illinois homeowners and other residents are educated by Extension on proper pesticide use through the Master Gardener Program and various gardening, home safety, and other programs. The PSEP specialists wrote the Pesticide Safety and Weeds sections and revised the Plant Diseases and Insects sections of the *Illinois Master Gardener Handbook*. They also developed several of the color slide presentations used to train Master Gardeners and deliver training sessions for beginning and advanced Master Gardeners.

*Pest Management for the Home Landscape* was revised and published spring 2016. This publication provides important pest management information on specific pests to Illinois residents. Included in this guide is a section on pesticide safety. Much of this pest guide was written by PSEP specialists.

An online training site for retailers who sell pesticides called, “Responsible Pest Management for Retailers” was developed by PSEP specialists and support trainers. The training consists of modules with quiz questions. There were 4,705 visits to the site throughout the year.



Phil Nixon teaching Illinois Master Gardeners about insects

## Hort Answers

The Hort Answers website provides access to a wide variety of horticultural disease, insect pest, herbicide injury, and plant culture information. PSEP specialists continue to be involved in its content. Hort Answers logged 298,744 page views during the reporting period. A mobile version of Hort Answers had 61,250 page views.

## AskHort

Many PSEP team members contributed to the development of AskHort, a computer-based answering system that allows regional Extension offices to ask horticulture questions, which are then funneled to specialists and Extension educators. Questions posted to the system typically result in a less than 24-hour turn-around for answers. PSEP team members continue to provide expertise for this resource.

## **University of Illinois Plant Clinic**

The University of Illinois Plant Clinic offers services in plant and insect identification, diagnosis of disease, insect, and weed problems and provides appropriate control recommendations. The success of the Plant Clinic relies on cooperation of many specialists at the University of Illinois. PSEP specialists are among those who contribute expertise to the Plant Clinic.

## **Distance Diagnostics through Digital Imaging**

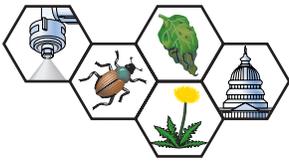
David Robson co-coordinates the Illinois Extension's Distance Diagnostics through Digital Imaging (DDDI). Other PSEP team members contribute expertise to the DDDI system. DDDI is an excellent resource for home owners and just about anyone involved in plant production. High quality representative samples of the plants or pests can be brought to a local Extension Unit office. County personnel will ask submitters to fill out a DDDI sample form. High quality digital images of the plant or pest sample are taken and submitted with information into the system. The information resides on a website that is exclusive to Extension diagnostic personnel for privacy purposes. Extension educators throughout the state and campus specialists with expertise in Agronomy and Horticulture will attempt to diagnose and identify production and pest problems on commercial forage, field, vegetable, fruit and turf crops, and home horticulture plant problems.

## **Mid-American Gardener**

Mid-American Gardener is a televised program produced by WILL TV (PBS). Viewers can call or send questions pertaining to every aspect of gardening and horticulture. David Robson served as a guest host, panelist, as well as a moderator for the show's chatroom and online forum. Phil Nixon also provided expertise as a panelist.

## **Television, Radio and Newspaper Contributions**

- Gardening Column – State Journal Register (biweekly; syndicated by Gatehouse Media statewide and nationwide)
- Garden Glories (Garden Clubs of IL, Inc. publication; horticulture column)
- Illinois Country Living: rural-electric monthly magazine (12 issues)
- WLDS 1180-AM: call in radio show
- WFMB 1450-AM: call in radio show
- IL Farm Bureau Radio Network, Springtime planting



Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program

## Other Programs and Invited Talks Given by PSEP Specialists

- Saudi Arabia Pesticide Ministry Delegation, Overview of Pesticide Certification and Training in Illinois, Urbana, IL
- Gateway Green Conference, Fall Blooming Trees, Shrubs, and Perennials, Collinsville, IL
- Gateway Green Industry Conference, Tree Insect Update, Bonsai: Living Miniature Potted Trees, Collinsville, IL
- Great Lakes Hosta College, Ferns in the Landscape; Maple-Maple-and More Maples, Piqua, OH
- Illinois Arborist Association, Certified Arborist Training – Basic Botany, Soils, and Soil-Water Relationship, Springfield, IL
- Kentucky Garden Clubs, BodySmart Gardening, Louisville, KY
- Margaret Scott African Violet Club, African Violet Insects and Pesticide Safety, Urbana, IL
- University of Illinois Master Gardeners Training, Madison Unit, Basic Botany, Collinsville, IL
- University of Illinois Master Gardener Training, Insect Anatomy, Insect Lab, Ornamentals Insects, Household Insects, Danville, Milan, Urbana, IL
- University of Illinois Master Gardener Training via Skype, Insect Anatomy, Ornamentals Insects, Household Insects, Statewide
- University of Illinois Master Gardener Training via Skype, Turfgrass, Statewide
- University of Illinois Master Naturalist Training, Aquatic Invertebrates, Aquatic Plants, Milan, IL
- University of Illinois Master Naturalist Training, Common Illinois Insects, Insect Identification, Insect Field Trip, Kankakee, Milan, and Urbana, IL

# Professional Involvement by PSEP Specialists

## Professional Societies and Associations

- American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE)
- American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE)
- Arbor Day Foundation
- Entomological Society of America (ESA)
- Garden Clubs of Illinois
- National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Illinois Agricultural Aviation Association (IAAA)
- Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB)
- Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA)
- Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF)
- National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA)
- National Agricultural Aviation Research & Education Foundation (NAAREF)
- Pre-State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (Pre-SFIREG)
- North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS)
- The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA)
- Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)

## University Committees

- Crop Sciences Extension and Outreach Committee
- Crop Sciences Academic Professional Promotion Committee
- Extension Crop Systems Development Team
- Extension Environment Program of Work Committee
- Extension Horticulture Development Team
- Extension Program Leaders Committee
- Purdue Pest Management Conference Planning Committee
- University of Illinois Grounds Advisory Committee



# Summary of Accomplishments

<u>Accomplishment</u>	<u>Date of Completion</u>
Online Private Applicator Training (100 registrations).....	All Season
Aerial Fly-In Clinics Conducted.....	All Season
Illinois Pesticide Review Newsletter Published (6 issues).....	Bi-monthly
State Agency Flyer Printed.....	July 2016
Commercial PSEP Clinic Schedule Created & Published.....	August 2016
Private Applicator Workbook Revised .....	August 2016
Turfgrass Manual Revised.....	October 2016
General Standards Workbook Revised .....	November 2016
Mosquito Manual Revised.....	November 2016
State Agency Clinics Conducted (2) .....	November 2016
Ornamentals and Turf Workbook Revised.....	December 2016
Aquatics Workbook Revised .....	December 2016
Mosquito Workbook Revised .....	January 2017
Sewer Line Root Control Manual Minor Revision .....	March 2017
Private PSEP Clinics Conducted (11).....	March 2017
Commercial PSEP Clinics Conducted (23 clinics) .....	May 2017

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The development and publication of this document has been supported with funding from the Illinois Department of Agriculture.