

**NC Cooperative Extension, NC Farm Bureau Team Up
on Pesticide Applicator Workshops for Growers, Landscapers, Dealers, Bilingual Supervisors**

Looking for an alternative to the 1990's video to train your Spanish-speaking workers on pesticide safety? Want a training program that prepares workers for *your* specific crop and workplace—with up-to-date pesticide information for North Carolina?

Then plan to attend one of six workshops offered this winter all across North Carolina to prepare you to use the *Pesticides and Farmworker Health Toolkit*! Workshops will offer 3 hours of pesticide applicator credit for the following categories: Private Specialty Training (X), Dealers (D), Regulatory (I), Ornamental/Turf (L), Ag Pest Plant (O), and Demonstration and Research (N). NC Cooperative Extension and the NC Farm Bureau Safety Team are excited to collaborate on these workshops.

The *Pesticides and Farmworker Health Toolkit* is a pesticide education resource for EPA-approved Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training of Spanish-speaking farmworkers. It was developed by Extension specialists, Dr. Catherine LePrevost, Julia Storm, and Dr. Greg Cope in the NC State University Department of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology with funding from NCDA's Pesticide Environmental Trust Fund. *Toolkits* are available in Spanish and English for 11 hand labor-intensive North Carolina crops, including apples, bell peppers, blueberries, Christmas trees, cucumbers, grapes, landscape/turf, strawberries, sweetpotatoes, tobacco, and tomatoes. The *Toolkit* features a colorful, illustrated flipchart with leaders guide, a one-page handout with essential safety messages, and interactive learning activities including jug-labeling and symptom charades. A bilingual poster is also available for purchase.

Registration for these six workshops is required and space is limited, so call now to reserve your space! Workshops are offered:

Date/Time: February 17, 8:30 am - 12 pm, (Breakfast sponsored by CommWell Health)
Location: Pender County Extension Center, 801 S Walker St, Burgaw, NC 28425
Registration Contact: Bette Rose/ NC Cooperative Extension, 910-253-2610

Date/Time: February 28, 8 am to 12:30 pm, (Meal sponsored by County Farm Bureaus)
Location: Orange County Extension Center, Hillsborough, NC
Registration Contact: Orange County Extension, 919-245-2050

Date/Time: March 5, 9 am to 12:30pm (Breakfast sponsored by Cumberland County Farm Bureau;
Interpretation sponsored by NC Grower's Association)
Location: Cumberland County Extension Center, Fayetteville, NC
Registration Contact: Brian Parrish, NCE office 910-893-7530, cell 919-692-5845;

Date: March 7, 10:00 am - 2:30pm, (Lunch sponsored by County Farm Bureaus)
Location: Mountain Horticulture Crops Research & Extension Center, Mills River, NC
Registration Contact: Ivy Olson, Henderson County Extension, 828-697-4891, ivy_olson@ncsu.edu

Date/Time: March 15, 9 am - 12 pm (Lunch sponsored by County Farm Bureaus)
Location: Pitt County Extension Center, Greenville, NC
Registration Contact: Roy Thagard, Jr., 252-747-5831

Date/Time: April 3, 10:00 am-2 pm, (Lunch sponsored by County Farm Bureaus)
Location: Alexander Campus Catawba Valley Community College, Taylorsville, NC
Registration Contact: Lenny Rogers, 828-632-4451

What should you expect during a train-the-trainer workshop? LePrevost, Storm, and other instructors will provide an overview of the *Toolkit* materials and the development process that involved both trainers and farmworkers. They will demonstrate training techniques using the *Toolkit* flipchart and handouts and engage participants in the *Toolkits'* hands-on activities. Trainees work in small groups to practice delivering the *Toolkit* training using the crop that is most relevant for them. Opportunities for local collaboration and tips for working with interpreters will also be discussed.

County Farm Bureaus, CommWell Health community health center, and the NC Growers Association are just some of the local sponsors supporting these workshops. They will provide meals, interpreters, or other extras to make the workshops a great success.

The *Toolkit* has been enthusiastically received across the state. NC Farm Bureau Safety Team Leader Ronald Hawkins has *Toolkits* for a variety of crops available in the NCFB safety education lending library. Dr. Wayne Buhler of NC State University says he is "delighted to feature the *Toolkit* as part of the NC Private Applicator Recertification Training Program." NC Growers Association staff are equally enthusiastic about the *Toolkit* as a refreshing, new educational resource, and are helping sponsor a local workshop. Regina Cullen of the NC Department of Labor's Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau supports using the *Toolkit* training as an important part of a grower's hazard communication program. Finally, Jim Burnette, Director of NCDA's Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division, is highly complimentary of this new and innovative pesticide education resource for workers.

LePrevost has already led workshops with health clinic outreach workers, NC Farmworker Health Program staff, student interns, Migrant Education staff, Extension agents, state agency personnel, and AmeriCorps volunteers. In addition, the *Toolkit* has been introduced to growers, landscapers, and others during 2011-2012 at the Tomato Field Day, the Turfgrass Field Day, the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association Summer Meeting, the Southeast Strawberry Expo, the Southeast Vegetable Expo, the Blueberry Expo, the Apple School, the NC Farm Show, the NC Gold Star Grower's Luncheon, and the Winegrowers Conference.

This is the last opportunity in 2012 for intensive workshops for the *Pesticides and Farmworker Health Toolkit*. In addition to growers and landscapers, *anyone* who trains Spanish-speaking workers--Extension agents, state agency personnel, migrant and community health center outreach workers, migrant education program or migrant head start staff--is invited to attend a workshop and build local relationships with growers and others. For ordering information for the *Pesticides and Farmworker Health Toolkit*, visit <http://go.ncsu.edu/pesticide-toolkit>.