



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 was updated in 2007 and was disseminated to pesticide applicators and the general public.

One new fact sheet on core Best Management Practices (BMPs) was created in 2006. This fact sheet identifies core voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) for pesticide application in order to help protect Idaho's ground water resources. In 2007, the Atrazine Health Fact Sheet was created. This fact sheet informs readers about atrazine and the health concerns associated with atrazine in the ground water.

ISDA mailed a total of 835 leachability fact sheets to pesticide applicators registered with ISDA's pesticide license program in February 2007 as part of the license renewal notification effort. Fact sheets that deal with a specific geographical region are 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.

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 along with the above mentioned fact sheets.

In addition, articles regarding the PMP Rule and elevated pesticide detections and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect ground water were included in the May 2006 and January 2007 volumes, respectively, 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
10/2/2006	Grand View	#1 Grand View/ Bruneau G. W. Q. Open House	15
11/6/2006	Grand View	#2 Grand View/ Bruneau G. W. Q. Open House	25
12/6/2006	Grand View	#3 Grand View/ Bruneau G. W. Q. Open House	5
12/14/2006	Marsing	Owyhee County Farmer's Appreciation Day	25
12/19/2006	Caldwell	Pesticide Applicator Recertification Workshop	105
1/8/2007	Jackpot, NV	Far West Winter Conference	174
1/25/2007	Boise	Idaho Water Users Association Annual Conference	85
1/30/2007	Caldwell	Western Idaho Agriculture Show	53
2/6/2007	Burley	Burley Nitrate Ground Water Project - Public Meeting	10
2/15/2007	Weiser	Weiser Weed District - Pesticide Recertification Workshop	29
2/21/2007	New Plymouth	Payette Co. Pesticide Recert. Workshop	50
2/21/2007	Driggs	Water Quality Pesticide Recertification Workshop	8
2/21/2007	St. Anthony	Water Quality Pesticide Recertification Workshop	14
2/22/2007	Ft. Hall	Water Quality Pesticide Recertification Workshop	16
2/23/2007	Blackfoot	Water Quality Pesticide Recertification Workshop	22
2/28/2007	Burley	Idaho Water Users Association Ditch Riders Workshop	54
3/1/2007	Lewiston	Extension Pesticide Recertification Workshop	40
3/1/2007	Jerome	Idaho Water Users Association Ditch Riders Workshop	22
3/2/2007	Nampa	Idaho Water Users Association Ditch Riders Workshop	50
3/23/2007	McCall	Valley County Master Gardener Workshop	20
3/31/2007	Rupert	Rupert/Minidoka Nitrate Testing Open House	500
5/30/2007	Boise	Ada County Advanced Master Gardener Workshop	35
Total Attendance for Water Quality Education in 2007			1357

ISDA's Water Quality Program and its educational efforts, along with ISDA's other pesticide related programs, were the focus of the "Idaho Report" for the fall/winter 2006 (Vol. 21 , No.1) issue of *Northwest Bulletin, Family and Child Health*.

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 participated in or organized. 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 areas all across the state. An event was even held in Jackpot, NV (Table 1).

Approximately 1357 pesticide applicators were trained at the events held in 2006 and 2007 (Table 1). The number of workshop attendees is actually greater than the reported 1357, 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 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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