



NEWS

RAYMOND POE, DIRECTOR • BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

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CONTACTS:

Rebecca Clark (217) 558-1546

Morgan Booth (217) 785-5485

Jean Payne (IFCA) 309-827-2774

ILLINOIS APPLICATORS COMPLETE SPECIAL PESTICIDE USE TRAINING

11,000 applicators attend classroom training; online training now available

Springfield, IL – In October 2017, the USEPA issued revised pesticide labels for three dicamba herbicide products that can be used on soybeans: Engenia, Xtendimax and FeXapan. In addition to making these herbicides restricted use pesticides, USEPA also required applicators to complete a specialized dicamba use training program before using the products on soybeans in 2018. As the nation's largest soybean producing state, meeting this requirement was a high priority for the Illinois ag industry and a daunting task given the nearly 15,000 licensed agricultural pesticide applicators in Illinois.

In November 2017, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) approved the use of classroom training to meet the requirements of the new USEPA dicamba pesticide labels. Trainers from BASF, Monsanto and Dow/DuPont provided the training and ag industry groups worked together to offer 150 classroom training events throughout the state, free of charge to the applicators. The Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association (IFCA) coordinated the program, working closely with IDOA, Illinois Farm Bureau and other ag organizations to secure training venues and encourage attendance at the classes.

By the end of March 2018, nearly 11,000 pesticide applicators attended the training to understand the new requirements for using these herbicides. For applicators who were not able to attend the training or decide later in 2018 to use the herbicides, there are now also on-line training options available.

The final classroom training class will be offered on March 28 in Rockford, Illinois. "We are very pleased with the turnout of pesticide applicators for the classroom training programs; the fact that nearly 11,000 agricultural pesticide applicators attended a class is remarkable and demonstrates their desire to learn how to better manage this herbicide to mitigate off-target movement" said Doug Owens, IDOA Bureau Chief of Environmental Programs. He added that "Not all pesticide applicators will use dicamba on soybeans, and we also know that many landowners and others in the ag industry attended to learn more about the stewardship of this product."

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TRAINING/2222

Because not all applicators were able to attend a classroom event due to unforeseen circumstances, IDOA will now also allow the use of these on-line modules to meet the certification requirement. BASF, Monsanto and Dow/DuPont have all developed on-line training modules that enable an applicator to get certified or to refresh their knowledge on the new label requirements.

Links to the on-line training programs are available at the Illinois Dicamba Training website at www.ifca.com/illinoisdicambatraining. Applicators can utilize any of the three programs to fulfill the training requirement; the programs require the applicator to take an exam at the end to assure understanding of the material. Upon completion the program will issue a training certificate that the applicator must keep proving they completed the course. All applicators must have a training certificate either from attending a classroom event or completing the on-line training to legally apply dicamba to soybeans in 2018.

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