

**Pesticide Use Has Potential Health and Environmental Concerns**

- Federal and state pesticide laws and regulations continue to change due to pressure on regulatory agencies and pesticide applicators stemming from environmental and public health concerns.

**AgriLife Extension’s Response**

- Established in 1965, the *Pesticide Safety Education Program* (PSEP) is coordinated by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and provides training and educational materials for 27 licensing categories for pesticide applicators as required by federal and state law. These include (1) general standards for licensing, (2) pest control, (3) termites, (4) ornamental and turf, (5) rights-of-way, and (6) public health and vector control.
- Each PSEP training course teaches a variety of topics, such as ecology, toxicology, emergency response, and proper storage, transport, and disposal of pesticides. In addition, all training programs meet the educational requirements administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to obtain classroom credit hours necessary for pesticide applicator licenses.

- In addition to conducting applicator certification and recertification trainings, PSEP develops, maintains, and distributes all federally and state-required study materials for applicator training and licensing in Texas.
- In 2015, PSEP and collaborators conducted continuing-education programs and trainings in Texas for 29,490 commercial and noncommercial applicators and 40,007 private applicators.

**Economic Impacts**

- Average annual wages for pest-management professionals were used to estimate the salary base of these trained participants to sustain jobs and businesses in the state. Private applicators’ time was valued at \$40.23 per hour for eight hours per year.
- As the federally designated pesticide-safety education entity in Texas, PSEP directly supports 29,490 commercial and noncommercial pest-management jobs, with an estimated annual salary base of \$928.3 million, and 40,007 private applicators, valued at \$12.8 million. In total, the PSEP supports 69,497 pesticide applicators in Texas, with a salary and time value of \$941.1 million.

