Vector Control Category Training

Listed below are the locations and dates for the TDA non-commercial Vector Control training. The course begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. Deadline registration is one week prior to training date. All registration fees of $100.00 per person must be included with the registration form.

The course includes the required category training manual (B-5071), a $45 value, and instruction from experienced Texas AgriLife Extension Service trainer, Dr. Mark Johnsen.

Contact the Texas Department of Agriculture for information on registering to take the Exam at (800) TELL-TDA (800-835-5832) or (512) 463-7622.

The Available Dates for 2010 are:

- **Fort Worth - 1100 Circle Dr.**
  - April 16, 2010
- **San Antonio - 3355 Cherry Ridge St, Ste 212**
  - August 26, 2010
- **El Paso - 1380 A&M Circle**
  - June 17, 2010
- **Houston - 3033 Bear Creek Dr.**
  - July 15, 2010
- **College Station- Hwy 47**
  - October 21, 2010
- **Austin - 2210 South FM 973**
  - September 23, 2010

With the increased public concern over newly emerging diseases in the state of Texas and the assorted arthropods that transmit these diseases, the Agricultural and Environmental Safety Unit of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service has incorporated a public health/vector control component to the training courses it offers. These courses have been developed with hands-on sections to allow the pest control operator/technician to gain a specific skill set in addition to the theory and educational material presented. The training programs that have currently been developed for the public health/vector control include:

**Adult and larval mosquito surveillance** - Surveillance acts as the eyes of the mosquito control program and gives the pest control operator the knowledge that is essential to the success of a program. Surveillance provides data that can be used to determine if control tactics are needed and can be used to justify the use of chemical control methods.

This course includes “hands-on” demonstrations of the various traps used in mosquito control (i.e. gravid traps, CDC light traps, oviposition traps, etc.) and the theory behind each of these traps (how they work, what mosquito species do they catch, where and how to set them, etc.). Each participant will get to operate each trap type to see the proper way to set the trap and how to identify the best habitat to set the traps in.

**Adult and larval mosquito identification** - Identification of mosquito species is one of the most useful skills for a public health technician. Proper identification of the vector species is the first step in developing an effective control program. The data obtained from identifying the various mosquito species can determine whether or not control is needed, what control tactics to use, and if the control tactic used was effective.

The Agricultural and Environmental Safety Unit offers a “hands-on” education course on the identification of the major disease and annoyance mosquitoes in Texas. The topics that are covered include the biology, ecology, bionomics, disease transmission, and control tactics.

**Adult and larval mosquito insecticide resistance testing** - This service has been offered to city and county health departments and mosquito control agencies since the early 1970’s under the directorship of Dr. Jimmy K. Olson (Ret.). This program has been moved under the Agricultural and Environmental Safety Unit and is now supervised by Dr. Mark Johnsen. Dr. Johnsen ran the insecticide screening program under Dr. Olson’s tutelage since 2000.

This service is set up to test mosquito populations for resistance to the various insecticides used in adult mosquito control (synthetic pyrethroids and organophosphates) at the beginning, middle, and end of the mosquito season. This data can be used to establish an insecticide resistance management program to prevent the development of resistance in the mosquito population and determine if the control tactics being employed are effective. Larval resistance screening can also be conducted as needed.

If supplemental vector control or public health educational courses are needed or specialized training is necessary, contact our office and modifications can be made to fit the needs of your control agency. These services in addition to the other educational and technician training courses offered by the Agricultural and Environmental Safety Unit are available at our website (www-aes.tamu.edu) or by calling 979-845-1099.