

**Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit**  
[agrilife.org/aes](http://agrilife.org/aes)

December 2019

## Auxin Herbicide Mandatory Training

Dicamba and 2,4-D tolerant cotton and soybean growers need to be aware of label changes and training requirements for the 2020 growing season. Revised labels for XtendiMax®, Fexapan®, and Engenia® herbicides were approved and released by the EPA and the corresponding companies, Monsanto, DuPont and BASF, respectively in 2019.

Notable revisions include the addition of new restrictions, as well as clarifications to previous label language. EPA restrictions implemented in 2019 include the following:

1. Classification of these products as federally "Restricted Use" pesticides.
2. Required record keeping of all applications for 2 years.
3. Annual mandatory auxin-specific training for every person that will be applying the product to any labeled crop (dicamba tolerant or not).

The Texas Department of Agriculture has approved a 1 hour auxin-specific herbicide training for applicators of Dicamba and 2,4-D for the 2020 growing season, which will be provided through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension faculty and Allied Industry. The 1 hour training will educate applicators on the requirements and practices for keeping these auxin herbicides on-target, and will satisfy the updated auxin herbicide specific training requirements.

Auxin training resources can be found under the CEA Resources page on the AES website at <https://agrilife.org/aes/auxin-training/>. State Weed Specialist, Dr. Scott Nolte will conduct a WebEx presentation for CEAs that can be accessed along with additional training resources in early January 2020.

## CEU Rosters

The Texas Department of Agriculture has updated their Texas Pesticide Course Accreditation Guide. Please note the following significant changes in order to properly submit TDA Form PA-409 for CEU credit.

- Include Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Tax Identification number. (Tax #17460005378).
- Use the guidelines for conducting acceptable CEU courses specified on page 10 of the TDA Accreditation Guide to determine which activities meet ag and structural criteria.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service faculty may be sanctioned for non compliance, and may also have their CEU privileges revoked for failing to adhere to these regulations. If you are unsure about a topic or are submitting a course for TDA approval, contact our office before submitting the 409.

Additionally, you can find the "TDA Accreditation Guide" on our website at [agrilife.org/aes](http://agrilife.org/aes). Under the CEU protected link, open TDA CEU (sponsorship) resources and find the guide under Course Rosters and Guidelines for CEU providers.



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## Paraquat Dichloride Training

The EPA has submitted a requirement for certified applicators to complete an EPA-approved training before mixing, loading, and/or applying paraquat. This Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision and amended paraquat dichloride product labels ensures that the training provides important information about paraquat's toxicity, new label requirements and restrictions, and the consequences of misuse.

The requirement of this additional training can be attributed to 17 deaths since 2000 involving oral ingestion, and 3 deaths and many severe injuries caused by skin or eye exposure. The additional training's purpose is aimed at reinforcing the proper storage and transfer of paraquat in appropriate containers. In addition, the training establishes procedures for selection and use of PPE, application equipment and emergency protocols to mitigate applicator exposure.

Certified applicators can find this training at [www.usparaquattraining.com](http://www.usparaquattraining.com) and can find more information about the training itself and new requirements at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-training-certified-applicators>.

## New Emergency Mosquito Control

After Hurricane Harvey municipalities in the affected areas did not have sufficient licensed applicators to conduct mosquito control activities. Consequently, the 86th Texas Legislature enacted this regulation to facilitate "Emergency Control by Certain Municipal or County Employees".

### **Sec. 76.120. Emergency Mosquito Control by Certain Municipal or County Employees.**

(a) A municipal or county health department may apply for a waiver from the department authorizing the application of pesticides for mosquito control in the manner provided by this section if:

- (1) the municipality or county is in a state of disaster as declared by the governor under Chapter 418, Government Code; or
- (2) the municipal or county health department determines that immediate action is needed to control the threat of mosquito-borne disease.

(b) On application by a municipal or county health department, the department may grant a waiver authorizing unlicensed employees of the municipality or county to apply pesticides for mosquito control under the direct supervision of a licensed applicator employed by the municipality or county, a nearby political subdivision, this state, or the federal government.

(c) An unlicensed employee of the municipality or county may apply pesticides as authorized by a waiver if the unlicensed employee and the licensed applicator supervising the employee execute an affidavit promulgated by the department describing the supervision arrangement and return the affidavit to the department.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 344 (S.B. 1113), Sec. 1, eff. May 31, 2019.