Computer Based Examinations

Finally I have COMPUTER BASED EXAMS!

Computer Based Examinations

- CDA has contracted with Metro Institutes to provide computer based examinations
- CDA and CSU locations
  - Lakewood – CDA office
  - Grand Junction CSU Extension
  - Sterling CSU – Northeast Regional Engagement Center
  - Lamar - CSU Extension
  - Center – San Luis Valley Research Center
  - Cortez – CSU Extension
  - Fort Collins – CSU Campus (Coming Soon)

Computer Based Exams

- Everyone must complete an online exam application
- All exams are scheduled online.
- All exam fees are also required to be paid online.
- The examination fee is now $30.00 for each exam as a result of the new examination procedures.

Computer Based Exams

- Applicators can no longer take the same exam multiple times per day
- Testers are able to take only the examinations that they have scheduled and pre-paid for on the scheduled date and at the scheduled location

No can do... Sorry!
Computer Based Exams

- For security purposes, you must have a valid e-mail account, without a valid e-mail account you will not be able to proceed with the examination process.

- No walk ins

Computer Based Testing

- Start at the Colorado Department of Agriculture's new home page
- www.colorado.gov/ag
On-line Exams

- Takes you to an overview of the scheduling and examination process...then prompts you to...

“Begin the Metro Institute Online Pesticide Applicator Exam Application”

Taking Your Exam

- Security – picture will be taken
- CDA may use on future licenses
- Moving towards a plastic ID license card
- Will see immediately if you passed or failed
- Proctor site will provide a record of exam and licensure information
- CDA will still process all licenses from Lakewood location
Future Computer Based Exams

- By 2014
  - Adding graphics to exams
  - Pose ID
  - Labeling questions
- Additional locations will be considered
- Soil Fumigation challenge exam in 2013

Pesticide Storage Signs

- Analysis of the inspections conducted over the last 3 years indicates that about 20 percent of all Commercial, Limited Commercial and Public Applicators do not have the correct verbiage or text on their pesticide storage sign.

- The pesticide storage sign MUST contain the following text:
  - "WARNING: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (PESTICIDES) ARE CONTAINED WITHIN. In case of emergency, contact: (name) at (telephone number)."

- Additional guidance for pesticide storage signs:
  - Letters MUST be at least ONE INCH high
  - The contact person must be a representative of the business or entity – Not the fire department or police department

- Additional guidance for pesticide storage signs:
  - The telephone number must be associated with the company representative listed above – Not 911
  - The sign is not required if the Fire Department has contacted and has instructed the company to post the pesticide storage with a diamond hazard sign or other local fire department requirements
Pesticide Storage Signs

- Entities not in compliance will be given an opportunity to correct the sign during a follow up inspection.
- Failure to correct the problem prior to the follow up inspection will result in the issuance of a Violation Notice.

What IS this DriftWatch?

- “Pesticide Sensitive” Mapping System & Viewer
- Currently active in Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota, Illinois, Nebraska, Montana, AND NOW COLORADO!
- Why should I care?

DriftWatch

- DriftWatch is a non-regulatory communication tool for producers of pesticide sensitive crops, beekeepers and pesticide applicators.

Q:
- If DriftWatch is non-regulatory why is CDA involved?

A:
- CDA obtained EPA grant money to pay for DriftWatch in Colorado.
- CDA validates the producer information as the Data Steward and helps to manage DriftWatch in Colorado.

Pollinator Protection requires COMMUNICATION!

Growers, Beekeepers, Applications, Pollinators
**What's is Pesticide Sensitive?**
- Any Vegetable or Fruit including
  - Grapes
  - Tomatoes
  - Melons
- Organics
  - Certified organic
  - Organic farms
  - Organic livestock
- Other
  - Bees
  - Greenhouses
  - Fish Farms

**How does it work?**
- Designed as a communication tool to protect sensitive crops & habitats
- Sensitive sites are registered through the DriftWatch website
- Applicants are able to locate registered sites prior to making applications using DriftWatch
- DriftWatch is a Google Maps based website

**Project developed by Purdue University in 2008**

**Let’s check out DriftWatch**
- Start with Producers

**How DriftWatch Works**
- Google Maps registry website
  - Producer voluntarily enrolls the location of pesticide sensitive crop areas > ½ acre production
  - Provide contact information
  - Identifies sensitive crop type
  - Sketches a polygon around their field(s)
  - Saves field polygon and contact information – done!
  - May purchase field sign(s) after field accepted into registry
Let's check out DriftWatch...

Producer uses mouse to sketch field boundary

Data steward - provides quality control of registry content
1. Receives information provided by producer
2. Performs review
3. Accepts/rejects producer submissions into DriftWatch registry
4. If accepted, field added to public website www.driftwatch.org
5. Producer receives automated email notification
6. Registered pesticide applicators receive automated email notice of new sensitive crop within designated area of interest (digest)

How DriftWatch Works

Click on a balloon and a information box opens up, the box on the next slide is from the Illinois’ DriftWatch program
DriftWatch

- The benefit of being a registered applicator is that you will receive automatic e-mail updates whenever a new crop site is registered by a producer.

DriftWatch

- Any licensed applicator can view the pesticide sensitive crop maps and associated producer information, even if they are NOT registered in the DriftWatch program.

How DriftWatch Works

Applicators – view locations of sensitive areas
1. Provide contact information (optional)
2. Identify location(s) of interest (optional)
3. Automated emails alert applicator(s) that a new producer entry in designated area was registered (if applicator is registered)
4. DriftWatch field sign supports local awareness
5. DriftWatch website map available to public

DriftWatch

- An applicator must provide the information shown in the next slide in order to register with DriftWatch.
Since participating in DriftWatch, our commercial tomato producers have experienced a precipitous drop in claims due to drift.

- 2008 - $750,000 claims due to drift
- 2009 - 50% reduced drift incidents, 90% reduced damage
- 2010 - Negligible damage due to drift
- 2011 - Negligible damage due to drift

- Steve Smith, Director of Agriculture Red Gold

Is DriftWatch Effective?

- Automated email notifications to applicators/producers
- Field signage for registered producers
- Improved digitizing tools
- Improved crop registry annual renewal process
- Educational materials and stewardship bulletins
- Future ... Smart Phone Applications

Recent Enhancements:

Endangered Species Bulletin Rozol and Kaput for the control of black-tailed prairie dogs

- Rozol Prairie Dog Bait
- Kaput Prairie Dog Bait
- ES restrictions – 1st Colorado ES Bulletins
- Be sure to check EPA’s Bulletins Live Website

Protected Species

Endangered Species Act a Federal statuary to use any pesticides in a manner that results in the death of an endangered species. Unofficially, it may pose a hazard to endangered species.

When using this product, you must follow the measures contained in the Endangered Species Protection Bulletin for the counties in which you are applying the product. Be sure to check EPA’s Bulletin Live website.
ES Bulletins are not specific enough
Requesting greater detail on future Bulletins
Putting EPA in touch with local DOW to obtain maps that are more accurate and detailed
NO PRAIRIE DOGS!!

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS...

Black-footed Ferret (Mustela nigripes). Do not use this product within 7 kilometers (4.34 miles) of any prairie dog town to limit risks to the black-footed ferret from exposure to Zinc Phosphide or destruction of its prey base, unless the colony is an isolated black-tailed prairie dog town less than 80 acres in size or an isolated white-tailed prairie dog town less than 200 acres in size, or unless the town had been appropriately surveyed, using methods acceptable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and found by the FWS not to be a suitable site for ferret reintroductions.

Block cleared areas do not include White-tailed or Gunnison prairie dog.

For questions call USFWS Colorado field office at 303-236-4773.
White-Tailed Prairie Dog Locations

Since 2001, state and federal wildlife biologists have established two major black-footed ferret colonies: one at Coyote Basin, which straddles the Colorado-Utah border west of Rangely, and another at the BLM’s Wolf Creek Management Area southeast of Dinosaur National Monument.

The Wolf Creek region boasts a large, isolated white-tailed prairie dog town on land closed to off-road vehicle travel... Black-footed ferrets prey on prairie dogs, their main source of food, and dwell in their burrows, making Wolf Creek and Coyote Basin ideal re-introduction sites.
CSU HICAHS Grant

- Thia Walker – CSU Extension Specialist may be in contact with you at various CEC workshops asking you to participate in the tank clean out study

If you need more information... About the survey and/or collecting samples:

- Thia Walker (719) 691-9118

- thia.walker@colostate.edu
Questions?

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