

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division



**Worker Protection Standard Program
for Limited English Proficiency Individuals**

Outreach Plan

Introduction

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) was promulgated in 1992 under Section 25 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The WPS is designed to reduce the risks of illness or injury resulting from workers' and handlers' occupational exposure to pesticides used in the production of agricultural plants on farms or in nurseries, greenhouses, and forests and also from accidental exposure of workers and other persons to such pesticides. The scope of the regulation includes not only workers performing hand labor operations in fields treated with pesticides, but also workers in forests, nurseries, and greenhouses, and employees who handle (mix, load, apply, etc.) pesticides in these locations.

In Louisiana, workers in the field of agricultural production may have limited English proficiency (LEP). As a recipient of federal financial assistance, a state is obligated to comply with the requirements concerning LEP. To accommodate communication and outreach on important safety matters with these LEP individuals, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has established this LDAF WPS Program for LEP Individuals Outreach Plan (LEP Outreach Plan). The LEP Outreach Plan targets relevant stakeholders within its service area and highlights WPS and LEP services, including providing LEP individuals with pesticide safety training and meaningful access to LDAF's WPS Program. This LEP Outreach Plan utilizes existing partners and networks in which the LDAF regularly engages, and will target Spanish speaking LEP individuals in Louisiana. If there are other LEP workers identified in LDAF's ongoing assessment of the populations eligible for or affected by its WPS program, who speak a language other than Spanish, LDAF will provide meaningful access to those populations.

Relationships with Stakeholders

The LDAF recognizes that working with community-based organizations and other stakeholders to inform LEP individuals of the LDAF services is important and has an existing network of partners which it regularly engages with to provide outreach on training and WPS. These groups include but are not limited to:

- Extension Services
- Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
- Louisiana Aerial Applicators Association (LAAA)
- Louisiana Vegetation Management Association (LVMA)

- Louisiana Ag Industries Association (LAIA)
- Louisiana Agricultural Consultants Association (LACA)
- Louisiana Pest Management Association (LPMA)

In addition to these, LDAF has established contact with the Louisiana Association of Cooperatives. Despite unsuccessful efforts to locate farm worker organizations in Louisiana which would potentially assist the LEP individuals targeted in this plan, LDAF realizes the value in maintaining and building relationships with its existing stakeholders in order to reach this targeted population. To that end, LDAF will continue to work with EPA Region 6 in its search for farm worker organizations in Louisiana.

Training Module: *El Moscas y Los Pesticidas*

As part of its outreach efforts to LEP individuals, LDAF will utilize its existing network of stakeholders described above to disseminate pesticide safety information via a one-page informational English/Spanish brochure titled *El Moscas y Los Pesticidas*.

Developed by EPA - Region 6, *El Moscas y los Pesticidas* is an interactive humorous play designed to increase safety awareness for individuals who work in areas that are treated with pesticides and to broaden their understanding of the take-home risks they may be bringing to their families. The script was written by a former migrant worker with input from federal, state and health agencies that have a shared interest in providing and communicating information about pesticide awareness. The dialogue is filled with expressions and words used by Spanish speaking farm workers.

The *El Moscas y Los Pesticidas* toolkit will also be hyperlinked to the LDAF WPS website and is currently found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/water/beyondtranslation/2009/elmoscas.html>

EPA Region 6 has also developed other outreach tools, such as bandanas and refrigerator/washer magnets with a message in Spanish to convey and educate LEP individuals and their families on how they can protect themselves from pesticides and pesticide residues that could be brought into their homes. These outreach materials were also developed in a manner that could be easily understood and used by the farm workers. LDAF has and will continue to distribute these outreach tools at pesticide training and recertification meetings with the assistance of the Louisiana State University Ag Center.

Public Service Announcements

In addition to utilizing the EPA training modules described above, public service announcements (PSAs) will be developed (including language assistance instructions) on how farm workers and handlers can reasonably access information on WPS and pesticide safety. The PSAs will be disseminated in conjunction with the seasons in which large numbers of migrant farmworkers arrive and perform their duties. These PSAs will be transmitted on Spanish radio stations throughout Louisiana, depending on resources available to the state.

In researching the Spanish radio stations that may carry this message, LDAF has identified the following:

- KDDK 105.5 FM – Addis, LA (Baton Rouge area)
- KFXZ 1520 AM – Lafayette, LA
- KGLA 1540 AM – Gretna, LA (New Orleans area)
- WFNO 830 AM – Norco, LA (New Orleans area)

Online Video Presentations

The LDAF WPS website will hyperlink to existing video presentations (in Spanish) on the basic principles of WPS. These educational videos, produced by various universities in conjunction with EPA, are currently hosted at the North Dakota State University (NDSU) website and are aimed at Spanish speaking individuals. Ranging in length from 15 minutes to 50 minutes, titles and topics include:

- Pesticide Safety for Agricultural Workers
- Pesticide Safety for Early Entry Workers and Pesticide Handlers
- Pesticide Handlers and Worker Protection Standard
- Chasing the Sun: WPS Training for Workers
- Reducing Pesticide Risks: An Interactive Program for Pesticide Handlers
- Protecting Yourself from Pesticide Hazards in the Workplace
- Protection from Pesticide Exposure

A website hit counter will be utilized in order to evaluate the number of times these videos have been accessed and viewed.

Video presentations can be found at: <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/pesticid/wps.htm>

LDAF WPS Pesticide Program and Language Assistance Activities

LDAF enters into an agreement with EPA each year to perform WPS agricultural use inspections. During these inspections, LDAF agricultural environmental specialists are cognizant of the requirements for Worker Protection Standards and inquire at facilities on pesticide exposure incident occurrences. They review the policies in place that insure workers and handlers are provided protection and assistance. LDAF agricultural environmental specialists also explain to handlers and workers during inspections where to make referrals or file complaints. Arrangements for interpretation are available to ensure LEP persons meaningful access to information provided during the inspections, as well as for instances when LEP workers may want to file a complaint or relay other WPS-related information.

LDAF staff and agricultural environmental specialists communicate the provisions of the WPS Program to specific sectors of the regulated community following LDAF's Targeting Strategy for WPS Compliance Monitoring Activities and the U.S. EPA WPS Inspection Guidance, stressing the past, present, and future WPS and Worker Safety implications. EPA pesticide safety outreach posters and materials that are in the Spanish language such as the "*Protect Yourself From Pesticides*" (EPA Form 735-H-93-001) posters, magnets and bandannas, are distributed by LDAF agricultural environmental specialists during routine WPS inspections and other contacts.

The LSU AgCenter hosts and administers WPS Train-the-Trainer Certification/Recertification training meetings for certified applicators that either need to renew or want to add WPS Trainer status to their certifications. The training meetings are held at various locations around Louisiana as warranted.

During FY 2013, there were a total of 637 certified Private Pesticide Applicators and/or Commercial Pesticide Applicators that had previously received state-authorized WPS Trainer training and were eligible to provide WPS Worker Training and WPS Handler Training. These WPS Trainers included parish agents within the LSU AgCenter (the primary WPS Trainers), agricultural producers, and correctional facility personnel (those who are involved in agriculture production). Certified WPS Trainers conducted a total of 153 WPS Handler Training sessions and a total of 1,270 WPS Handlers were trained during those training sessions. Also during FY 2013, certified WPS Trainers conducted a total of 59 WPS Worker Training sessions and a total of 758 WPS Workers were trained during those

training sessions. WPS Trainers trained the majority of WPS Workers in correctional facilities throughout Louisiana, and without card issuance.

LDAF will continue to analyze the relevant stake holders' population and address their needs within the WPS Pesticide Program. When changes of this population are discovered, LDAF will adjust our outreach program as needed.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY



MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER

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DATE