

Training Coordinators. Thirty-five educators and regulators from six states and Canada completed the pilot training course in March 2001. A second course has been scheduled for October 2001. A Western Regional PSEC has been proposed at the University of California at Davis.

AAPSE provides a nationally recognized voice for individuals responsible for educational programs on pesticide risk reduction at state Cooperative Extension services, and state, provincial, federal, and tribal agencies.



The **Spray Drift Educator's Conference** was sponsored by AAPSE, the Spray Drift Task Force, and U.S. EPA. Seventy-five people from the United States and Canada attended the two-day conference in Kansas City, Missouri, in October 2000. Educators learned about the upcoming changes in product labeling, application technology, and exam item writing. A second conference is scheduled for September 2001 in Sacramento, California. <http://pep.wsu.edu/ncodm/conf01.html>

Pesticides and National Strategies for Health Care Providers is a national initiative to improve the capability of primary health care providers to recognize and treat pesticide-related illnesses. AAPSE was solicited to provide representation by several members on the federal planning committee and on each of three subcommittees. The work of the subcommittees resulted in a draft plan, which was distributed nationally in 2000. AAPSE served as the sole pesticide consultant with a team of doctors and nurses writing pesticide curriculum guidelines for incorporation into medical and nursing schools and continuing education.

Liaisons & Partnerships

AAPSE representation was sought by USDA-CSREES during the **National Program Leader candidate interviews**. An AAPSE representative attended all three of the interviews and provided written input on behalf of AAPSE.

AAPSE helped found and has formal representation with the **National Coalition on Drift Minimization**. The coalition has three working groups that focus on major areas for drift management: regulation, technology, and education.

The National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance had its first annual conference in November 2000. AAPSE was asked and served on the NPSA's first program planning committee and assisted in securing nationally recognized speakers and resources on pesticide topics related to recycling, disposal, labels, etc. AAPSE is coordinating a roundtable discussion for the NPSA 2001 conference scheduled in Memphis, Tennessee, in late November. AAPSE also provided the new organization with guidance regarding its infrastructure.

An AAPSE liaison is working with the **Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials—ASPCRO**. AAPSE has worked on the training issues work group.

Association of American Pest Control Officials—AAPCO annually invites AAPSE to address the group at its spring meeting. AAPSE has formal representation via an

AAPSE promotes pesticide risk reduction education, training, and certification programs to protect human health and the environment.



AAPCO-AAPSE liaison. AAPCO has invited AAPSE representation on its Full SFIREG (States FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group) committee, its Pesticide Operations and Management and its Water Quality and Disposal working committees. AAPSE has influenced language in some Pesticide Registration (PR) Notices.

AAPSE provides a forum to work cooperatively on certification and training needs, policies, and strategies at regional, national, and international levels.



In April 2001, AAPSE was asked by EPA to work on the **Endangered Species Initiative**. AAPSE participated in the May 2001 meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico and will be involved in development of outreach materials.

Policy Input

The **Certification and Training Assessment Group (CTAG)** completed the report *Pesticide Safety for the 21st Century* in January 1999. Nine of the report's 39 recommendations specifically identified AAPSE as being responsible for their implementation. Through its members, AAPSE continues to be actively involved in defining strategies to address funding, consumer education, integration with the Worker Protection Standards, and a tiered classification of pesticides based on occupational use.

The **U.S. EPA Worker Protection Program Assessment** is challenging several AAPSE members. An AAPSE representative attended the first workshop of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) National Assessment in Austin, Texas.

AAPSE worked on the planning committee for the second workshop in Sacramento, California, and served on the planning committee for the WPS PREP Course at UC-Davis in 2000. AAPSE also facilitated a panel on training. AAPSE will maintain an active role in the assessment process.

Food Quality Protection Act Risk Mitigation and Implementation has not missed the attention of AAPSE. In letters sent to the Directors of EPA Office of Pesticide Programs and USDA Office of Pest Management Policy, AAPSE leadership pointed out the need and importance of applicator education in implementing risk mitigation measures identified for pesticides currently undergoing regulatory review.

USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy invited AAPSE to participate in a review of USDA Programs in Pest Management in August 1999. The review examined information about the program and provided advice and insight on program needs to better facilitate FQPA implementation.

Section 25(b) Labels are an important issue impacting AAPSE educators and regulators. In a formal letter to the Director, EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, AAPSE, with AAPCO support, requested EPA modify its approach on these labels. AAPSE raised awareness of these labels and related concerns through invited national and international presentations. EPA has responded positively and indicated it is making internal adjustments.

AAPSE responded to a **Draft Executive Order on Toxic Chemical Reductions**, which called for, among other directives, the elimination of use of organophosphates and carbamates by federal agencies. AAPSE's letter expressed

support for the concept of reduction of exposure to toxic chemicals but emphasized the desirability of using an educational approach to mitigate risks. Ultimately, the discussion of organophosphates and carbamates was deleted from the Draft Executive Order, in line with AAPSE's recommendations.

In response to EPA's **Proposed Allocation of Production Caps** among producers as a means of reducing risk from pesticide exposure, AAPSE recommended linking production caps to product stewardship programs. EPA representatives called AAPSE's Issues and Evaluations Committee Chair twice to assure the organization that AAPSE comments would be considered.

Member Communications

The **AAPSE Web site** provides members with a wealth of contacts: directories (membership, speakers, USDA PAT coordinators), publications, and letters written on behalf of AAPSE, events calendar, governance documents (by-laws, minutes, committees), and links. The site's Internet URL is <http://aapse.ext.vt.edu>.

The **AAPSE ListServe** provides for electronic communications among members. Only current members have access to the listserve and can send or receive AAPSE-related emails.

The Journal of Pesticide Safety Education—JPSE is an electronic, peer-reviewed journal. AAPSE has published two volumes: 1999 and 2000. JPSE expands and updates the research, instructional methods, and knowledge base for pesticide safety educators and other interested professionals to improve their effectiveness.

American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators

1999–2001 Accomplishment Report

AAPSE has been quite busy over the past two years. The 1999-2001 Accomplishment Report highlights many of the significant activities in the areas of Educational Initiatives, Policy Input, Liaisons & Partnerships, and Member Communications.

Educational Initiatives

AAPSE has been the primary proponent for creating regional **Pesticide Safety Education Centers (PSECs)**. The goals of the PSECs are (1) to strengthen the infrastructure of pesticide safety training to raise the professional competencies of educators and regulatory personnel, and (2) to increase coordination and cooperation among educational institutions and state, provincial, federal, and tribal regulatory agencies. The comprehensive training programs include a self-study phase and a resident hands-on phase. PSECs are a cost-effective means of providing a wide variety of quality training activities for diverse audiences.

In June 2000 the Southern Region PSEC was established at North Carolina State University with support from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Southern Region Pesticide Applicator

