



FEBRUARY 2026

NATIONAL PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION MONTH

ORGANIZED BY THE
NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER TEAM
FOR PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION
PROGRAM (PSEP) FUNDING

WHAT IS NATIONAL PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION MONTH?

Purpose

- Provide education to reinforce core principles of safe pesticide use with many audiences
- Raise awareness and support for land-grant university [Pesticide Safety Education Programs \(PSEP\)](#)

Invited Partners

- Extension educators
- Government agencies
- Pesticide registrants and formulators
- Garden centers, farm supply stores
- Manufacturers of sprayer and safety equipment
- Pest management companies
- Commodity groups
- Professional societies
- Conservation groups
- Everyone committed to the safe use of pesticides



DID YOU KNOW?

- There are about 1 million certified pesticide applicators in the U.S.
- 11,000–15,000 pesticide products are registered for use in each state
- Pesticides are used to do more than control insects, weeds, and fungi
 - Rodenticides
 - Plant defoliants
 - Swimming pool treatments
 - Plant growth regulators
 - Disinfectants, sanitizers, and more
- Common consumer products that contain pesticides
 - Flea collars
 - Weed and feed
 - Ant and roach traps
- Pesticide Safety Education Programs (PSEP) are housed at land-grant universities

Pesticide Safety Education Programs Educate on a Host of Topics:

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| • Safe, Responsible Use of Pesticides | • Recordkeeping |
| • Application Of Pesticides | • Emergency Planning & First Aid |
| • Buying & Selling Pesticides | • Pesticide Disposal & Recycling |
| • Understanding & Complying with Labels & Laws | • Spill Mitigation |
| • Transport & Storage of Pesticides | • Integrated Pest Management (IPM) |
| • Equipment Calibration | • Resistance Management |
| • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) | • Protection of Agricultural Workers, the Public, Nontarget Organisms, and the Environment |
| • Mixing & Loading | |
| • Rinsing & Cleanup | |

PROMOTE

Publicize the Event

Use press releases, articles, videos, this brochure, and social media posts to reinforce the purpose of National Pesticide Safety Education Month and the importance of Pesticide Safety Education Programs.

Target Audience (including but not limited to):

- Private and commercial applicators
- Homeowners
- Growers
- Farmworkers
- Students
- Salespeople
- Shoppers
- Legislators

HOLD AN EVENT OR PROVIDE A VENUE

- Training sessions
- Seminars
- Demonstrations
- Pamphlets
- Q & A sessions
- Hands-on activities

WHY IS PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION IMPORTANT?

Pesticides impact our lives in many ways – improving food and feed yields and quality, protecting public health, and controlling pests in our homes, turf, waterways, forests, rights-of-way, and beyond – but must be used safely. Pesticides are a critical component of many Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs, and safe use is essential.

A PIVOTAL ROLE

Pesticide Safety Education Programs:

- Deliver pesticide applicator training on the safe use of pesticides in agricultural, commercial, and residential settings
- Serve as educators for those using agricultural, specialty, and consumer products
- Work from land-grant universities to disseminate non-biased, science-based information
- Deal with state-specific needs and laws
- Educate through in-person training, online training, and educational materials

ABOUT US

The purpose of National Pesticide Safety Education Month is to reinforce core principles of safe pesticide use with many audiences and raise awareness of and support for the land-grant university Pesticide Safety Education Programs (PSEPs).

SPONSOR US

Sponsor National Pesticide Safety Education Month by supporting one or more Pesticide Safety Education Programs through the Adopt-A-PSEP Initiative. Visit our website to download the sponsorship form and learn more.

<https://pesticidestewardship.org/national-pesticide-safety-education-month/>

Photos courtesy of USDA NRCS.

