



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

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May 17, 2016

Dear EPA Representative:

It is our pleasure to invite your agency to participate in the 2016 Pollinator Protection Pesticide Inspector Regulatory Training (PIRT) program hosted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The course will be held at the [Embassy Suites](#) in Kissimmee, FL from **September 13-16, 2016**.

The target audience for this course will be new or experienced inspectors who have not attended PIRT training in the last two years. The objective of this course is to focus on pollinator protection as it relates to pesticides, including understanding pollinators, bee kill investigations, pollinator labeling language, pollinator protection plans, and sampling of bees. Please see the [draft agenda](#) for session topics.

Classes will begin the morning of September 13, 2016 and end midday on September 16, 2016. **September 12** and the afternoon of **September 16** will be set aside for travel. Attendees with extended travel time may be approved to for an additional night of hotel in Kissimmee if they provide reasonable justification.

EPA inspectors who are selected for the course will be required to fund their own travel and meals. The hotel will allow \$110/night for EPA employees. This is more than the federal per diem of \$89 per day. EPA employees may book a room in another hotel that will allow the federal per diem rate if they choose to. Boxed lunches will be provided to PIRT funded participants by the hotel on Wednesday and Thursday during the field trips. However, EPA employees will be required to pay and obtain their own lunches for the field trip days.

We are looking forward to having your nominee attend this training opportunity. We realize that this represents a substantial commitment of time. However, FDACS and the EPA feel the curriculum will enhance the ability of your inspector to address pollinator protection issues in your EPA Region. Therefore, we request a full commitment from the participants to attend and participate in the entire program.

Supervisors of inspectors, please submit this [online nomination form](#) for one representative and one alternate nominee from your agency by **June 9, 2016**. Please select individuals who can benefit most from the course with the understanding that they must be able to attend the training in its entirety. Preference will be given to individuals who have not attended a PIRT course in the last two years. Once the nomination form has been received, participants will be notified if they've been selected and additional information will be provided by **July 1, 2016**.

If you have any questions pertaining to this program, please feel free to contact FDACS's Neil Richmond at (850) 617-7862 or EPA's Shirley Fan at (202) 564-2425.

Sincerely,

Neil D. Richmond, Assistant Chief  
Bureau of Inspection and Incident Response