



## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Gary W. Black, Commissioner

[www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov)

April 16, 2018

Dear State Lead Agency, Tribal and Territory Representatives:

It is our pleasure to invite your agency to participate in the ***Advanced Enforcement "Pesticide Inspector Regulatory Training" (PIRT)*** to be held June 10 - 14, 2018, in Savannah, GA. The program is being hosted by the Georgia Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The course will focus on advanced inspector skills and will include training related to advanced regulatory enforcement, enforcement case documentation, auxin herbicide updates, interviewing and communication skills, web-site documentation, new technologies in inspections, along with updates from the EPA. The program is intended to be interactive and include sharing of information and experiences by all attendees. Attendees should come away from this course with an enhanced understanding of higher level investigational and enforcement skills. With this in mind, **nominees with experience in enforcing agricultural laws or regulations and who routinely conduct Ag and Structural related inspections in their state, will be given preference.**

This program is fully funded through a grant provided by the EPA. Hotel, airfare, and group meals will be paid directly by GDA. Participants will be reimbursed for other expenses including airline baggage fees, transportation, parking, and travel day per diems (according to State of Georgia per diem rates) associated with attending the program. Participants will be responsible for any additional expenses, such as car rentals, hotel telephone charges, room service, and additional room reservations.

The program will begin the evening of Sunday, June 10, and will conclude around noon on Thursday, June 14. We realize that this training opportunity represents a substantial commitment of time. However, GDA and the EPA feel the curriculum will enhance the ability of your inspector to address regulatory enforcement and investigation issues under your jurisdiction. Therefore, we request a commitment that participants attend the entire training.

The group rate for the hotel is \$117.00 per night, plus hotel tax, which is the standard federal per-diem rate for Savannah.

EPA or other federal inspectors who are selected for the course will be required to fund their own travel. Registration fees for EPA or other federal inspectors will not exceed \$175.00.

**Supervisors/Managers should complete the nominee form online for one inspector and one alternate by Monday, April 30, 2018. Access link to form: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/forms/2018-advanced-enforcement-pesticide-inspector-regulatory-training-pirt-nomination>** .If you have problems accessing the form, please contact Rick Hayes at [ricky.hayes@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:ricky.hayes@agr.georgia.gov). Once the nomination form has been received, selected participants will be notified and additional information will be sent regarding travel arrangements, lodging, agenda, etc. If you have any questions pertaining to this program, please feel free to contact Rick Hayes, at (404) 535-1614. Please forward this message as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tommy Gray', is written over a horizontal line.

Tommy Gray  
Director of Plant Industry, GDA