



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division

James W. Burnette, Jr.
Director

April 26, 2023

Dear State Lead Agency, Tribal, and Territory Representatives:

It is our pleasure to invite your agency to participate in the **Basic Pesticide and Use Concerns "Pesticide Inspector Regulatory Training" (PIRT)** to be held July 31- August 3, 2023, in Asheville, N.C. The program is being hosted by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) in conjunction with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The course will focus on basic pesticide inspector skills, current pesticide use concerns that are facing our inspection staff (Worker Protection Standard, Soil Fumigation, Pollinator Protection, Bulk Containment, and Respiratory Protection), enforcement case documentation, and updates from the EPA. The program is intended to be interactive and include sharing of information and experiences by all attendees. Participants should come away from this course with an enhanced understanding of pesticide registration, enforcement history, use documentation, FIFRA, and investigational and enforcement skills. With this in mind, **nominees with less than 2 years of pesticide regulatory experience in enforcing agricultural laws or regulations and who routinely conduct Ag and 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 NCDA&CS. Participants will be reimbursed for other expenses including airline baggage fees, transportation, parking, and travel day per diems (according to State of North Carolina 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 on Monday morning July 31st. and will conclude around noon on Thursday, August 3rd. Travel dates will be Sunday July 30th and the afternoon of August 3rd. We realize that this training opportunity represents a substantial commitment of time. However, NCDA&CS 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.

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 be \$245.00. This fee will be collected prior to the meeting.

Supervisors/Managers should complete the nominee form online for one inspector and one alternate by May 31, 2023. Access link to form: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/forms/2023-basic-pesticide-and-use-concerns-pesticide-inspector-residential-training>. If you have problems accessing the form, please contact Patrick Jones at patrick.jones@ncagr.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 Patrick Jones, at (336) 496 7106. Please forward this message as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Patrick Jones".

J. Patrick Jones
Deputy Director of Pesticide Programs, NCDA&CS