



## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Tyler Harper, Commissioner

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

September 7, 2023

Dear State Lead Agency, Tribal, Territory or EPA Representative:

It is our pleasure to invite your agency to participate in the **Basic Pesticide Inspector Residential Training (PIRT)** to be held December 3 -7, in Savannah, GA. The program is being hosted by the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The course will focus on basic inspector skills and will include training related to current pesticide use concerns (Worker Protection Standards, Sampling, Pollinator Protection, and Respiratory Protections), enforcement case documentation, and updates from EPA. The program is intended to be interactive and includes 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 less than five years of regulatory experience in enforcing agricultural laws or regulations and who routinely conduct agriculture related inspections in their state, will be given preference.**

This program is fully funded through a grant provided by 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.

EPA or other federal inspectors who are selected for the course will need to fund their own travel. GDA will book your hotel room, but you will be responsible to pay for it at the group rate of \$130.00 per night, plus hotel tax, which is the standard federal per-diem rate for Savannah. For EPA or other federal inspectors, a fee that covers provided meals, field trip transportation, and materials, will not exceed \$275.00.

The program will begin the evening of Sunday, December 3, 2023, and will conclude around noon on Thursday, December 7. We realize this training opportunity represents a substantial commitment of time. However, the GDA and EPA feel the curriculum will enhance the ability of your inspector to address regulatory enforcement and investigation issues in your jurisdiction. Therefore, we request a commitment that participants attend the entire training.

**Supervisors/Managers should complete the [nominee form online](#) for one inspector and one alternate by October 6, 2023.** If you have problems accessing the form, 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. Contact Rick Hayes for any questions at [ricky.hayes@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:ricky.hayes@agr.georgia.gov) or 404-535-1614. **Please forward this message as appropriate.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Wren', is written over a light blue circular background.

Jennifer Wren  
Program Director of Agriculture Inputs