



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

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

Christina L. Waggett
Assistant Commissioner for
Consumer Protection

J. Patrick Jones
Director

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Dear State Lead Agency, Tribal, and Territory Representatives:

It is our pleasure to invite your agency to participate in the **Pollinator Issues Pesticide Inspector Residential Training (PIRT)** to be held **July 14-18, 2024, in Raleigh, North Carolina**. 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. PIRT Trainings are weeklong courses usually held for pesticide inspectors from states, tribes, territories, and federal agencies across the U.S. For this course, apiary inspectors in similar areas are also being invited to attend.

The course will focus on pesticide use issues encountered during pest and disease control in honeybee hives. Topics will range from basic to advanced subject matters in beekeeping and pesticide use. Honeybee topics will include hive basics, diseases and pests, oxalic acid research, pest resistance, overuse of pesticides, and emerging pests. Pesticide topics will range from basic pesticide labels, registration process, EPA Bee Advisory, State Pesticide Enforcement, tolerances, bee kill guidance, and Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3's). We will also discuss interagency collaboration, FieldWatch, and the need for better communication between beekeepers and pesticide applicators.

The program is intended to be interactive and include the sharing of information and experiences by all attendees. Participants should come away from this course with an enhanced understanding of the struggles of maintaining healthy hives, pesticide registration and enforcement, and the importance of the proper use of pesticides in hives.

We encourage pesticide inspectors to team up with the Apiary counterparts, if available, we will also accept either inspector type from States, tribes, territories, or federal agencies.

Preference will be given to nominees with three or more years experience in regulatory experience with honeybee hive inspections, a keen interest in pollinator health, experience with bee kill investigations and/or enforcing pesticide laws and regulations.

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 the State of North Carolina per diem rates) while 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 agency inspectors/staff who are selected for this course will be required to fund their own travel. A registration fee for EPA or other federal inspectors/staff will be accessed based on food, transportation, and other expenses. This fee will be collected prior to the meeting.

The program will begin on Monday morning July 15th and will conclude around noon on Thursday, July 18th. Travel dates will be Sunday July 14th and the afternoon of July 18th. 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.

Supervisors/Managers should complete an online nominee form for one inspector and an inspector alternate. Please complete a separate nomination form for your apiarist.

Nominations must be completed by May 15, 2024. Access link to form:

<https://www.epa.gov/compliance/forms/2024-pollinator-issues-pesticide-inspector-residential-training-pirt-nomination>. 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,



J. Patrick Jones
Director, Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division, NCDA&CS