Greenhouse and Nursery Regulatory Compliance Workshop

Pesticides have become more selective, safer, and environmentally friendly over the last few decades, but their irresponsible use can still have negative consequences. Some pesticides have negative impacts on pollinator populations, are harmful to aquatic organisms when leached into lakes and ravines, and harm non-target organisms, such as mammals and humans. That’s why the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Worker Protection Standard (WPS), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have designed regulations specifically geared towards pesticide applicators and their employees to ensure responsible use of pesticides.

However, a grower can become easily overwhelmed by all of the pesticide regulations and requirements, not to mention the recent changes that have taken place. Keeping records of pesticide applications, complying by re-entry intervals, providing employee safety signage and training, wearing personal protective equipment, accessibility of safety data sheets, and keeping the insecticide label on the insecticide packaging are but a few of the requirements for using pesticides on the farm. Ignoring the regulations or falling behind is not much of an option either. An audit by the TDA, either via random selection or by a complaint, can result in several hefty fines of more than $750 per fine that could have been avoided with a bit of extra training.

The Greenhouse and Nursery Regulatory Compliance Workshop is a program requested by growers in East Texas to help ensure compliance with current TDA, WPS, and OSHA regulations. The speakers will include Dr. Mark Evans, a current TDA auditor, and Dr. Mark Matocha with AgriLife extension, who is involved in development of training programs for TDA auditors. Although this program will be geared towards greenhouse and nursery growers, there will be information that is relevant to pesticide applicators in other industries as well. Program details are as follows:

Date and time: November 19th, 2015, 9 am – 2 pm (lunch included)
Location: Holiday Inn, 5701 South Broadway, South Tyler
Fee: $40 (before 11/13), $80 (11/14 – 11/18), $100 (door)
Register online: sixleggedaggie.com/resources/programs

For more information contact Erfan Vafaie, Extension Program Specialist, at erfany@tamu.edu or call the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Overton at 903.834.6191 EXT 239.