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Changes to Certification and Training

Libby Smith, Certification Specialist

In 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created new federal standards for certification and training of pesticide applicators. To adopt the new standards, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) requested changes to state law and regulations which were completed in Feb. 2021. While EPA’s approval for the changes is pending, NDA is required by state law to implement the changes on Jan. 1, 2022. The new law and regulations will require all applicators to show a government-issued ID when applying for or recertifying a pesticide applicator license, and the minimum age has been raised to 18 (previously it was 16). NDA will implement these and the following changes to applicator licenses in phases, beginning with licenses that expire in 2022. Licenses that expire in 2023 and 2024 will not be required to recertify early or add categories until the year of expiration. By 2025, all applicators will have new cards issued.

Private applicators will be required to add categories to their license to perform soil (01A) or structural/non-soil fumigation (11). Private applicators who wish to apply restricted use pesticides (RUPs) by aircraft (including drones) will be required to obtain a commercial or noncommercial license and add the Aerial Pest Control category (12). If the aerial application does not involve RUPs and is limited to property owned, rented or leased by the applicator, the commercial/noncommercial license may not be required.

Private applicator categories are added by passing the category exam at any NDA commercial/noncommercial applicator testing session. Exams will not be offered during private applicator training sessions.

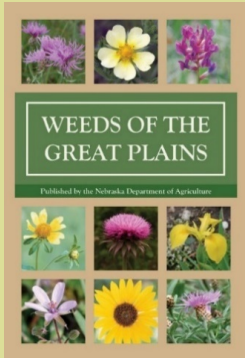
Commercial and noncommercial subcategories for Soil Fumigation (01A), Sewer Use of Metam Sodium (05S), Wood Destroying Organisms (08W), Regulatory (REG) and Demonstration/Research (D/R) have been redesignated full categories. The Fumigation category (11) will now be referred to as “Structural and Non-Soil Fumigation.” Demonstration and Research has been designated as category 16 while Regulatory has been designated as category 15.

For noncertified applicators working under the 60-Day Exemption, category specific training that matches the federal competency standards is now also required. A detailed list of these can be found in the Federal Certification Regulation §171.103 (d).

Continued next page

Weeds of the Great Plains

Purchase the book in person at the NDA office in Lincoln for a cost of \$32.50 or a mailed copy for a cost of \$35 per copy. To order the book or learn more about noxious weeds, go to [NDA's Noxious Weed Program](#) page or call 402-471-2351.



800 Number Scam

NDA Pesticide Program no longer has a toll-free certification line and we have learned that the old number is now used by a scammer pretending to be a representative of NDA.

DO NOT CALL the number that is found on old NDA specialty items (pencils, etc.) or other material that you may have. Please destroy those items, and if you have questions concerning the Pesticide Program, licensing and certification, or other information presented in this newsletter, please call 402-471-2351.

Continued from previous page

Ag Pesticide Dealers – Dealers should continue to document license expiration dates for all applicators, including private applicators purchasing fumigants. Private applicators will be required to have the 01A or 11 categories for purchasing fumigants for farm use by April 2025 using this [phased-in approach described above](#). Thereafter, private applicators must add the fumigation category they need for the type of fumigant they wish to apply BEFORE they can legally buy the fumigant.

Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Program

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) identifies and regulates high-risk chemical facilities through the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. The CFATS program prevents the misuse of certain Chemicals of Interest (COI) at America's high-risk chemical facilities for use in a terrorist act through systematic regulation, inspection, and enforcement of chemical infrastructure security requirements.



Any facility which has a chemical listed in Appendix A, at or above the screening threshold quantity, must report it to DHS. [There are over 300 chemicals in Appendix A](#), including several pesticide active ingredients. See here for [additional information on CFATS](#), including overview fact sheets and videos. Questions about the program can be addressed to cfats@hq.dhs.gov.

New Product Registration Specialist

Bre Lewis-Jones joined NDA this fall as a product registration specialist. Previously, she worked at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, where she was project coordinator for the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. She received bachelor's degrees in applied science and insect science, and a master's degree in science education from UNL. Bre's professional background includes project administration, education, and research. Her interests include insect photography, documentaries, and spending time with her husband and two kids.



Welcome, Bre!

Commercial and Non-Commercial 2022 Recertification/Renewal Meetings (No NDA Exams Offered)

Date	Meeting	Categories	City	Location
1-4	Nebraska Turfgrass Conference	00, 04	La Vista	La Vista Conference Center
1-5	Crop Production Clinic	00, 01, P	Gering	Gering Civic Center
1-6	Crop Production Clinic	00, 01, P	North Platte	Mid-Plains Community College
1-11	Crop Production Clinic	00, 01, P	Norfolk	Northeast Community College
1-13	Crop Production Clinic	00, 01, P	Beatrice	Holiday Inn Express
1-19	Crop Production Clinic	00, 01, P	Hastings	C3 Hotel & Convention Center
1-21	Crop Production Clinic	00, 01, P	Ithaca	Eastern Nebr. Res. & Extension
1-25	Crop Production Clinic	00, 01, P	Kearney	Younes Conference Center
1-26	Crop Production Clinic	00, 01, P	York	Holthus Convention Center
1-26	Nebraska Agri-Business Ag Expo	00, 01	La Vista	La Vista Conference Center
1-27	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 14	O'Neill	Holt County Courthouse Annex
2-1	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
2-3	UNL Recertification	00, 01	Grand Island	College Park - Hall Co. Ext.
2-3	UNL Recertification	00, 03, 04, 07, 11, 14	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
2-3	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 10, 11	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
2-3	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 09, 11	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. & Extension
2-8	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 09, 10, 14	Grand Island	College Park - Hall Co. Ext.
2-8	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 09, 11	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
2-8	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
2-10	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 09	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
2-10	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 08, 08W	North Platte	W. Central Res. & Extension
2-15	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 09, 11	Beatrice	Gage County Extension
2-15	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 14	O'Neill	Holt County Courthouse Annex
2-16	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07	Columbus	Ag Fairgrounds
2-17	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 11, 14	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. & Extension
2-22	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W 11	Grand Island	College Park - Hall Co. Ext.
2-22	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
2-22	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 11, 14	North Platte	W. Central Res. & Extension
2-23	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 09	Holdrege	Phelps County Fairgr. Ag Center
2-23	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07, 08, 08W	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
2-24	Custom Applicator School	00, 01	Hastings	Central Community College
2-24	Urban Pest Mgt. Conference	00, 08, 08W, 09, 11	Lincoln	Lincoln Cornhusker Marriott
2-28	Nebraska Aviation Trades Association	00, 01, 07, 12	Kearney	Younes Conference Center
3-8	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07, 11	Beatrice	Gage County Extension
3-8	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 10, 14	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
3-8	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 05, 07, 09, 11, 14	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. & Extension
3-10	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 09	O'Neill	Holt County Courthouse Annex
3-15	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 11	Holdrege	Phelps County Fairgr. Ag Center
3-15	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 08, 08W, 09, 14	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
3-17	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 09, 14	Columbus	Ag Fairgrounds
3-17	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07, 09, 10, 14	North Platte	W. Central Res. & Extension
3-22	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07, 09	Beatrice	Gage County Extension
3-22	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. & Extension
3-24	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 11	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
3-29	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07	North Platte	W. Central Res. & Extension
4-6	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 10, 14	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension

- To register for all UNL Recertification meetings, go to [UNL Pesticide Safety Education Program](#). Registration will begin by Jan. 1, 2022. To register for all others, click the corresponding link in the table above.
- See next page for initial training and testing options, or [the NDA testing page for info](#) on testing-only sites. Pearson Vue testing or NDA testing-only sites are the only option for recertifying categories not listed above.

Please Post for Employee Reference

Commercial and Non-Commercial 2022 Initial Certification Meetings (UNL or Association Training plus NDA Exam)

Date	Meeting	Categories	City	Location
1-25	UNL Initial Certification	00, 03, 04, 06, 08, 08W	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
2-1	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 05, 08, 08W 10	Grand Island	College Park - Hall Co. Ext.
2-1	UNL Initial Certification	00, 03, 04, 07, 11, 14	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
2-1	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
2-8	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 03, 05, 06, 09	North Platte	W. Central Res. & Extension
2-15	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 07, 09	Holdrege	Phelps County Fairgr. Ag Center
2-15	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 09	North Platte	W. Central Res. & Extension
2-15	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 07, 09, 14	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
2-22	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 08, 08W	Columbus	Ag Fairgrounds
2-22	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 09, 11	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. & Extension
2-24	Custom Applicator School	00, 01	Hastings	Central Community College
2-24	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04 06, 07 09, 11 14	Grand Island	College Park - Hall Co. Ext.
2-24	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W, 09	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
2-24	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W 09	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
2-24	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. & Extension
3-10	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 14	North Platte	W. Central Res. & Extension
3-15	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04 07 08, 08W 11	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
3-15	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04 05, 10, 14	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
3-15	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 07, 14	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. & Extension
3-17	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 06, 14	Beatrice	Gage County Extension
3-29	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 08, 11	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
4-5	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. & Extension
4-7	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 05, 10, 14	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
4-7	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 05, 09	North Platte	W. Central Res. & Extension
4-12	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 08, 09	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
4-14	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 09	O'Neill	Holt County Courthouse Annex

Applicator Categories

To register for all UNL Initial meetings, go to the [UNL Pesticide Safety Education Program site](#).

Registration will begin by Jan. 1, 2022.

To register for all other testing opportunities, click the corresponding link in the table above.

In addition to the General Standards exam, categories with * at right are available through [Pearson VUE testing sites](#).

Information for ["NDA testing only"](#) will be posted soon.

At "testing only" sites, only testing is conducted for initial certification, adding categories or recertifying by exam.

Study material for all exams can be purchased from [UNL Pesticide Safety Education Program](#).

1	Ag Plant*	8	Structural Health*
1A	Soil Fumigation	8W	Wood Destroying Organism*
2	Ag Animal	9	Public Health*
3	Forest	10	Wood Preservation
4	Ornamental and Turf*	11	Structural & Non-soil Fumig.*
5	Aquatic	12	Aerial*
5S	Sewer Root (<i>metam sodium</i>)	14	Wildlife Damage Control
6	Seed Treatment	15	Regulatory
7	Right-of-Way*	16	Demonstration/Research

NDA Certification Testing Policies

- The use of study materials is not allowed while taking the exam.
- Calculators may be used. However, all iPads, cell phones or similar electronic devices that can store, send or receive data or images must be turned off, kept in pockets or holsters, and will not be allowed on the tabletop.
- The exams are the property of the State of Nebraska. Removal of exams from examination rooms is prohibited. Copying or reproducing the contents of exams (in whole or in part) is unlawful.
- Persons with special needs or disabilities should notify NDA of accommodations they may require at least 10 days prior to date of the exam.

These policies and more certification information can be found on NDA's [certification page](#).

Please Post for Employee Reference

Private Applicator Recertification

Private applicators whose licenses are due to expire April 15, 2022, will receive a reminder letter from NDA in mid-December. It is important to bring that letter with you to your training meeting. Applicators who do not bring this letter with them will be required to stay after the meeting to fill out additional paperwork.

Private applicators have the option of recertifying at Crop Production Clinics in January (see page 3). All other in-person training meetings can be found by [contacting your local Extension office](#) for dates, times and availability. Additional options may be available at [UNL Pesticide Safety Education Program](#).

Please note that because of the changes to certification standards for private applicators, RUP soil fumigation and RUP structural/non-soil fumigation activities will require the addition of these categories to a private license by April 2025. Private applicators whose licenses expire in April 2022 can begin adding those categories, if needed, in 2022 by taking the commercial/noncommercial exams. All others can wait until their licenses expire in 2024 or 2025.

If you have questions on this new requirement, please call 402-471-2351.

Certification Requirements for Private Applicators

Contact [your local Extension office](#) for dates, times and availability, and see [NDA's Applicator Certification and Licensing page](#) for more licensing information.

[Store Chemicals Safely on the Farm](#) (and elsewhere)

With farmers concerned about supply for the 2022 growing season, many are buying products early and storing them. However, improper storage can make those high-dollar products worthless. See the tips in this article.

[Dealing with Pesticide Shortages in 2022](#)

[Three Reasons Why You Should Let Your Phone Go to Voicemail While Working with Pesticides](#)

Help Your Doctor to Recognize Pesticide Poisonings

Pesticide poisoning symptoms often go unrecognized or misdiagnosed. Common pesticide poisoning symptoms can range from a headache, dizziness, nausea, excessive sweating or even fatigue. These symptoms can also mimic heat stress, food and alcohol poisoning, asthma and other illnesses making diagnosing pesticide poisonings challenging.

A great resource for medical professionals is the [PERC-med \(Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative - Medical\) website](#) where continuing education, conferences and webinars are linked. Included is a 60-minute continuing medical education course created for California but nationally applicable. This course, "Recognition, Management and Reporting of Pesticide Illness: A General Overview," is designed for health care providers and covers how to diagnose and treat pesticide illnesses.

Another excellent resource is the 6th Edition of [Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings](#). Download it or call the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at 1-800-490-9198 to order publication EPA 735K13001. You can also order copies online using pages linked at the page above.

All are free! Of particular interest may be the Index of Signs and Symptoms. The 5th edition is available in Spanish at the same website.

Reprinted with permission of the [University of Illinois Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program](#).

Another great resource is the UNL Extension publication, [Managing Pesticide Poisoning Risk and Understanding the Signs and Symptoms \(EC2505\)](#)

If you have a poisoning emergency, call



If the victim has collapsed or is not breathing, call 911.

Items of Interest

[State fair entry triggers investigation into spotted lanternfly](#) - Kansas State Fair officials judging 4-H entomology entries discovered one display included an invasive moth that had yet to be confirmed in Kansas.

[Invasive Old-World bluestem hurting Kansas prairie](#) - As it creeps its way across the Plains, Old World bluestem is taking over more and more fields.

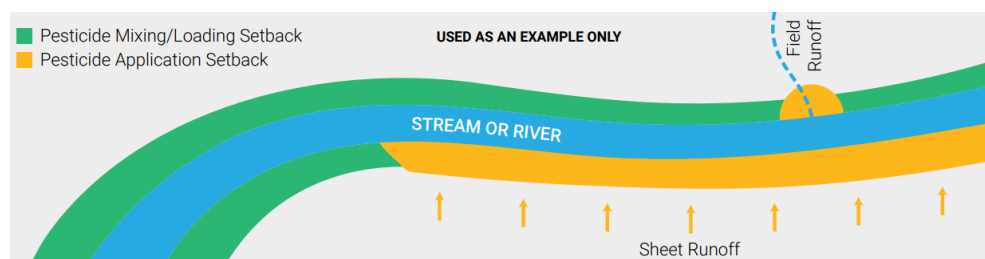
[Nebraska Weed Control Association](#) – includes contact information for your county weed control authority, a weed map showing documented infestations of noxious and invasive weeds, and more.

[Three Manageable Factors that affect spray drift](#) - Sprayer operators can reduce the potential for off-target drift by recognizing and accounting for these three factors: Apparent wind speed (i.e. the sum of wind speed and travel speed), boom height (i.e. release height), and droplet size (i.e. nozzle spray quality). The take-home: Even when the spray window is small and the spray must go on, take a moment to drop the boom, use a coarser droplet size and if it's too windy, just don't spray.

Product Setbacks and Surface Water Quality

Many product labels have setback restrictions for surface waterbodies such as streams, rivers, wetlands and impoundments. The language varies from product to product for what type of water feature is included in the restriction and the setback distance to be maintained. Some labels simply require a setback, while others may require a strip of vegetation be included in that setback, depending on the chemical properties and toxicity to aquatic life. Most all product labels require a mixing/loading setback.

Labels often distinguish what kind of stream requires a setback. NDA developed an informational bulletin defining streams that are intermittent or seasonal, as opposed to a perennial stream which generally has water present year-round. See the [Pesticide Technical Interpretation – Intermittent Streams](#) for definitions and resources for determining if streams in your treatment area meet these definitions and if setbacks are required for the product(s) you are using.



Pesticides leaving the farm in field runoff are likely one of the biggest contributors to the amount of pesticides found in streams, rivers and reservoirs. But what about direct overspray? Regardless of the amount, this is a violation of most pesticide product labels and the Nebraska Pesticide Act, as well. What about chemigation systems that cross drainage ways, intermittent streams or irrigation ditches? These too are likely violations, depending on the language on the pesticide label and the site conditions, especially if water is present in the channel. Most outdoor-use pesticide labels prohibit applications directly to water. Please refer to the label of the products you are using and contact NDA if there are questions about use restrictions.

Consider installing a designed filter strip along these and other surface waters to comply with certain pesticide labels, reduce pollutants in runoff and prevent accidental overspray. The [Nebraska Buffer Strip Program](#) has funding for annual rental payments for this practice, and it can be combined with the USDA CRP for additional incentives. Contact your NRCS or NRD office for assistance in designing your filter strip(s) and applying for this program (links to contact info can be found at the link above).



FieldWatch – Stay Current!

- Has your email address changed since you registered in FieldCheck?
- Have you received messages from FieldWatch this year concerning new specialty crop sites in your area?

Chemical company and Coop mergers, company name changes and reorganizations, and changes in personal internet providers have created **many invalid email addresses** in the FieldCheck registry for applicators.

If any of these fit your situation, please create a [new FieldCheck applicator account](#), or, if you're unsure, contact [Craig](#) to check your account!

FieldWatch Update

Are you included in the first table below? You can be - it's easy and free.

Outdoor applicators (including turf/ornamental, right of way, aerial, private agriculture, public health/vector control and others) will benefit from knowing where specialty crops and seed field workers are located in order to reduce specialty crop damage or health impacts from drift. Once registered in FieldCheck, you'll have an option to download the app if you want. And you'll be able to see all specialty crop and apiary site plus the field worker sites from SeedFieldCheck.

Register at the link above to find out when new sites are added to those already found in your area (the second table shows statewide site totals).

Applicators registered in FieldCheck by general occupation or license type:

License Type or Occupation	Count	Percent of total
Aerial	66	6.0
Coop/CCA	475	42.9
County	75	6.8
Education/Research	23	2.1
GIS Software	2	0.2
Municipal/School District	23	2.1
NDA	7	0.6
NDOT	14	1.3
NE Game & Parks	1	0.1
NRD	1	0.1
Other	9	0.8
Other Comm. (i.e. 04)	47	4.2
Private	330	29.8
Seed Company	22	2.0
Utility	13	1.2
Total	1,108	

Number of fields or sites in DriftWatch:

Crop Type	Number of Fields/Sites
Beehives	706
Fish Farm	4
Fruits	85
Grapes	142
Greenhouse - High Tunnel	46
Hops	14
Industrial Hemp	10
Non-specialty Certified Organic	476
Non-specialty Transition to Certified Organic	148
Nursery Crops	50
Orchard	124
Other	58
Seed Corn (Field workers)	744
Vegetables	205
Total	2,812

Coming Soon to Nebraska FieldWatch: CropCheck, a registry for genetically modified and non-GM corn and soybeans. More information to come.

Chlorpyrifos: Cancellation of Food Tolerances and What this Means

Recently, the EPA issued a final rule announcing the cancellation of all food tolerances for the insecticide chlorpyrifos. It was issued because of a Federal Appeals Court order that required EPA to determine how the chemical affected children and infants when considering all sources. EPA concluded there wasn't any way to use these products that meets the safety standard for human consumption as required by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act (FFDCA). In simple terms, EPA's final rule set Feb. 28, 2022 as the last date any residues of chlorpyrifos will be allowed on raw or processed food or animal feed. It also specified that any food or animal feed found with residues of chlorpyrifos after Feb. 28 will be subject to possible condemnation and crop destruction as outlined in FFDCA.

Because EPA is not cancelling the registration of all chlorpyrifos products, rather revoking the food tolerances, there is no requirement to issue an existing stocks provision. NDA offers the following considerations for those deciding what to do with their remaining inventory of chlorpyrifos.

- State and Federal pesticide laws allow distribution of original and unopened containers of chlorpyrifos until the registrant of the product cancels the product's registration. Those same laws prohibit the further distribution of chlorpyrifos if the container has been opened or does not contain the original net contents. The term "distribution" means any movement of the product that changes ownership of the product, whether being sold to the end user or returned to retail/wholesale distributors.
- The EPA Final Rule allows for continued use of chlorpyrifos if the product is registered and used according to label. In Nebraska, the use season is essentially over, and the next opportunity to use the product will come well after the Feb. 28, 2022 tolerance cancellation date. NDA wants all users of chlorpyrifos to understand that use of an unregistered pesticide, or use of a pesticide inconsistent with the label, is a violation of State and Federal law. Use of chlorpyrifos that results in a detection of the chemical on any food or feed commodity after Feb 28, 2022 would be considered a violation of those laws.
- It is possible that some registrants may revise and reregister their product labels to allow for the continued use of the product on non-food sites (such as rights-of-way, trees, and invasive species), but it is also likely many of the registrants will voluntarily cancel their product registrations. If a registrant decides not to reregister the product and relabeling partial containers is not an option, the owner's only remedy is to legally dispose of the unregistered product as hazardous waste.

If EPA provides any additional guidance on what owners of remaining stocks of chlorpyrifos can do with it, NDA will publish that information on the Department website at nda.nebraska.gov. More information can be found at [EPA's Frequently Asked Questions on the chlorpyrifos rule](#).

Integrated Pest Management in Health Care Facilities

Health care facilities must meet the highest level of sanitation, while caring for sensitive populations. While it is important that health care facilities be free from pests that pose health risks, it is also critical that patients and employees be protected from chemicals that may also threaten their health.

The EPA prepared and introduced [this toolkit](#) to acquaint readers with effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM). It presents recommendations for best management practices for IPM in health care facilities. Throughout the nation, facilities that have adopted IPM report long-term, sustainable pest mitigation that reduces the use of pesticides.

EPA Sunsets Temporary Guidance on Respiratory Protection for Agricultural Pesticide Handlers During COVID-19

In 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued temporary guidance that offered flexibility during the COVID-19 public health emergency to agricultural employers and pesticide handlers regarding respiratory protection requirements covered by the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS). Due to improvements in access to NIOSH-approved respirators, fit testing supplies and related services, EPA terminated the 2020 guidance and a 2021 extension amendment effective Aug. 19, 2021.

EPA remains committed to protecting the health and safety of all communities, especially during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The decision to end flexibilities under the memoranda is in alignment with federal agency guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that entities should no longer use crisis capacity strategies for respirators and should promptly resume conventional practices. Refer to the product label directions and the Worker Protection Standard for PPE requirements for protecting pesticide handler health.

Survey to Evaluate Chemical Weed Control Methods in Corn, Soybeans

The objective [of the survey](#) is to understand the main chemical weed control strategies and weed escapes in soybean and corn production fields during the 2021 growing season and to evaluate the interest and awareness regarding novel, targeted herbicide spraying technologies.

Readers are free to reprint, in whole or in part, information in this newsletter. However, NDA respectfully requests the following citation be used:

Reprinted from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Pesticide, Fertilizer & Noxious Weed Newsletter (www.nda.nebraska.gov)

Articles from other sources are often used in this newsletter and should be cited accordingly.

This newsletter is available in other formats for persons with disabilities upon request. For an alternate format or for additional information on topics in this publication, please call the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2351.

TDD users can contact the Department by first calling the Nebraska Relay System. Telephone 800-833-7352 and asking the operator to call 402-471-2351.

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This newsletter is posted on NDA's website at nda.nebraska.gov/plant/newsletter/

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