

Overview of the Pesticide Policy and Your Responsibilities as a WSU Employee

Script with Numbered Slides

- Slide 1.** Hello! Welcome to the Overview of the Pesticide Policy and Your Responsibilities as a WSU Employee.
- Slide 2.** The policy I'm going to talk about today is a physical document. It does two things: first, it lays out WSU's expectations for employees who work with pesticides.
- Slide 3.** Second, it explains federal and state laws that apply to that same work.
- Slide 4.** My goal is to educate you about your responsibilities and liabilities regarding pesticide licensing, use, supervision, and recordkeeping.
- Slide 5.** At the end of this training module, you will understand these four important objectives that you, as employees, need to know: the extent of WSU liability coverage, where to find the Pesticide Policy, the license category you should have, and what an EUP is and what you need to do when working with them.
- Slide 6.** This is relevant to your employment because as a WSU employee you are expected to know the pesticide policy, and follow it accordingly. You are liable for your actions.
- Slide 7.** Our first learning objective is understanding your liability. Only licensed persons can recommend, supervise applicators or apply pesticides
- Slide 8.** Applications in other states must be legal
- Slide 9.** Application recordkeeping is required
- Slide 10.** Worker Protection Standard compliance is required
- Slide 11.** Focus on safe and healthy working environments
- Slide 12.** And written approval is required in advance of publishing client-based materials
- Slide 13.** If for any reason you were sued because of a recommendation you made or pesticide application that you, or those you supervised made, administrators would ask you whether you were following our policy. If you were, then WSU is much more likely to support you than if you did not follow policy. As a self-insured institution, the administration has the option of deciding who is covered and who is not based on individual circumstances.

- Slide 14.** We all need to have the same understanding of the word “pesticide,” so let’s go over some important terminology:
- Slide 15.** The legal definition is any substance or mixture of substances that kills, repels or mitigates a pest or acts as adjuvant, defoliant, and desiccant or plant regulator.
- Slide 16.** Back in the day, people thought the term pesticide just meant insecticide. It doesn’t. It includes fungicides, herbicides and all other types of pesticides.
- Slide 17.** The basic definition of a pest is any living thing or virus that causes problems, except those that cause human diseases or are internal pests of animals.
- Slide 18.** Historically, some people thought that the term pest just meant insects. That’s wrong, legally the term has always been much broader than that.
- Slide 19.** You should know how to locate the WSU Pesticide Policy in the case of training a new employee, or to check for any updates. It is important to do so because you are expected to know this policy and follow it. The policy applies to everyone at WSU.
- Slide 20.** Just search any WSU website with the term “pesticide policy.” The URL will then pop up on the web tab. It can also be found on WSU’s WSPRS website.
- Slide 21.** Without a license, you cannot talk about how a pesticide can be used, might be used or should be used to anyone unless the pesticide product has solely home and garden uses.
- Slide 22.** While we’re on the subject, you also need to know that in a court of law there is no difference between the words suggesting, advising or recommending. The terms all have the same legal interpretation...basically you telling a client how a pesticide could be used or what the result might be.
- Slide 23.** WSDA has two categories of pesticide license that are appropriate for WSU employees that use or recommend pesticides. One is public consultant. This license allows you to recommend pesticides, including talking about how a pesticide is used and what result it might have.
- Slide 24.** However, this license does NOT allow you to apply pesticides or supervise applicators such as grad students or technicians.

- Slide 25.** The other category is public operator. With this license you can apply pesticides through powered equipment, apply pesticides that carry use restrictions, and supervise unlicensed applicators. In addition, you can make recommendations to clients. The annual cost of the license is the same; you need to choose the one that best fits your work category.
- Slide 26.** Besides having a pesticide license, you also need the correct endorsement in order to make recommendations or work in particular areas.
- Slide 27.** Only passing the laws and safety portion of the licensing exam will not get you a license, you then need to pass exams in specific work areas to get an endorsement to have your complete license. For example, if you are working with herbicides on a WSU farm, you would need to pass the Laws and Safety exam and the Ag. weed endorsement exam to get your Public Operator license. Some endorsements that might apply to your work areas are: turf/orna weed, Ag. weed, aquatic pest control, Ag. insect/disease, ornamental insect/disease, soil fumigant, stored grain, seed treatment, livestock, or sprout inhibitor.
- Slide 28.** We are covering this as a learning objective so you realize your legal responsibility to hold the correct license. But if you have questions about specific license types you should talk to the staff in the Washington State Department of Agriculture. The WSU Pesticide Safety Program also develops Pesticide Applicator training materials, here is their [website](#).
- Slide 29.** Experimental Use Pesticides---or EUPs---will only be relevant to some of you, but they are still important to know about.
- Slide 30.** In a previous situation, we had a faculty member who didn't understand whether the policy applied to their work, didn't ask questions and because of that didn't follow policy. That triggered an internal disciplinary action as well as landing them on WSDA's penalty matrix.
- Slide 31.** EUP's also cover registered ingredients that are used in non-registered ways such as a crop not on label, a higher use rate, application timing that is outside limits, too

many applications, an application method that's disallowed, and PHI that's shorter than allowed.

Slide 32. In all, there will be three modules with resources to help educate or refresh your memory about WSU's Policy regarding pesticides. This video falls under Module 1, or the Overview. Module 2 talks about Organic Systems, and Module 3 is about Experimental Use Pesticides.

Slide 33. Thank you for taking time to learn the overview of WSU's policies related to pesticides. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Dr. Catherine Daniels or WSPRS and we will be glad to help. Go Cougs!

Dr. Catherine Daniels

cdaniels@wsu.edu

253-445-4611

<http://ext100.wsu.edu/wsprs/employees/>

[Updated contact information, January 2020: For assistance, please contact Lenora Jones, lenora.jones@wsu.edu, 253-445-4517, or visit the WSPRS website at <https://extension.wsu.edu/wsprs/employees/>.]