4-4-2009

New Requirements Related to Commercial Pesticide Applications

Kristine J. P. Schaefer

Iowa State University, schaefer@iastate.edu

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Abstract
As the 2009 pesticide application season approaches pesticide applicators need to be aware of some changes to pesticide record-keeping requirements and the Iowa Bee Rule. The changes put forth by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship took effect on Jan. 22, 2009.

Keywords
Entomology

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Bioresource and Agricultural Engineering | Entomology
New Requirements Related to Commercial Pesticide Applications

By Kristine J. P. Schaefer, Pest Management and the Environment

As the 2009 pesticide application season approaches pesticide applicators need to be aware of some changes to pesticide record-keeping requirements and the Iowa Bee Rule. The changes put forth by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship took effect on Jan. 22, 2009.

New requirement

Commercial applicators must now include the time a pesticide application begins and ends. This additional recordkeeping item was added to the list under section 21-45.26(3) Record-keeping requirements of the Iowa Administrative Code.

Iowa Bee Rule changes

The previous Iowa Bee Rule that has been in effect for nearly 30 years was rescinded and replaced. The new rule has two components.

- One part pertains to beekeepers’ responsibilities and requires them to register their apiaries on the sensitive crops registry if they want to protect their bees from pesticide exposure. Registration expires Dec. 31 of each year and may be renewed the following year.

- The second part of the new Iowa Bee Rule applies to commercial applicators and reads as follows:

    Between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., a commercial applicator shall not apply to blooming crops pesticides labeled as toxic to bees when the commercial applicator is located within one mile of a registered apiary. A commercial applicator shall be responsible for maintaining the one-mile distance from
apiaries that are registered and listed on the sensitive crop registry on the first day of each month.

The labeling statement that identifies a pesticide as toxic to bees can be found under the “Environmental Hazards” section of the pesticide label.

The sensitive crop directory (i.e., registry) is maintained by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and available online.

Kristine Schaefer is a program specialist in the Department of Entomology serving on the Pesticide Management and the Environment team.