



Washington  
State Department of  
Agriculture

## Pesticide Application Safety Committee (PASCO)

September 3, 2024, 9:00 am to 12:00 am (Hybrid Zoom)

In-person Option: 220 Legislative Building, 416 Sid Snyder Ave. SW, Olympia, WA 98504 Senate Rules Room

Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator
9:00–9:10	Open Meeting Welcome and roll call Agenda Review	Co-chairs
9:10 to 9:20	Agricultural Leadership Program Update	<b>Ofelio Borges</b>   Program Manager Technical Services and Education   Washington State Department of Agriculture
9:20 to 9:35	Office of Drinking Water	Deborah Johnson Wellhead Protection Program Coordinator Department of Health
9:35 to 9:45	Break	
9:45 to 10:00	Public Comment	Public Attendees
10:00 to 10:10	Tri Agency Update	Griselda Arias
10:10 to 10:35	DOH Pesticide Program	DOH Investigator Mirela Iancu
10:35 to 11:00	PASCO extension Discussion	DOH Co-chairs and Committee Members



11:00 to 11:30

Discussion Items  
Advisory Work Group  
Next meeting / Action items

Co-chairs and Committee Members



Washington  
State Department of  
Agriculture



# Pesticide Application Safety Committee September 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2024, 9am-11:30am

Welcome, we will get started in a few minutes



Mute your mic during the meeting and **unmute** when you want to speak.

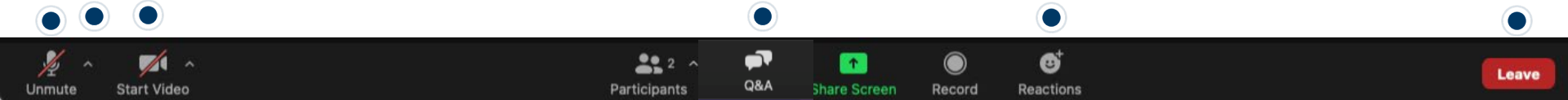
Participants will not have the ability to unmute or turn on their camera. If you are a committee or work group member, please use the Q/A to inform admin so they can get you permission

Optional: Participants really appreciate being able to see you during the meeting. If you turn your camera off during a presentation, please consider turning it back on if you wish to speak.

Chat will be disabled during the Webinar please use the Q/A to communicate with admin.

Use these quick actions to notify me, raise your hand.

When the session is over, click **Leave**, to leave the Zoom meeting.



# Pesticide Application Safety Committee Agenda

9:00am to 11:30am

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Break

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# PUBLIC COMMENT

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Public Comment Period will be **9:45am to 10:00am**

Please notify meeting admin **via Q\A chat box** if you would like to sign up for public comment. They will provide you access to unmute and come on camera during public comment time.

The public comment period is designed as an opportunity for individuals to share their comments with PASCO, with a *time limit of 3 minutes per speaker*.

Please note that this is not intended to be a discussion session with PASCO members, but your comments will be recorded, and there may be follow-up after the meeting for any issues that require further attention

Written Comments can be submitted via email: [Griselda.arias@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Griselda.arias@doh.wa.gov)

# Tri-Agency Update

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## **Continued Meetings:**

- DOH, L&I, and WSDA have sustained regular meetings as a tri-agency group.

## **Shared Data Set Initiative:**

- Established a small workgroup consisting of program managers from all three agencies.
- Develop a plan for a unified data set on pesticide exposures.
- Next Steps: Identify requirements, develop the plan, and involve additional partners as needed.

## **New Pesticide Exposures Review Panel:**

### Creation and Planning:

- The tri-agency workgroup is tasked with developing a comprehensive plan for the new review panel.
- Focus: Define the structure, scope, and operational details of the panel.

**Next Update:** Expect progress and updates at the April/May PASCO meeting.

# Advisory Work Group

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## Tasks and Ideas for the Advisory Work Group

1. Data Collection and Standardization - Efforts to standardize data collection across DOH, WSDA, and L&I to improve the consistency and usability of pesticide incident data.
2. Pesticide Use Reporting - Develop a more detailed understanding of pesticide usage in Washington to target educational and training efforts effectively.
3. Addressing Climate Change Impact - Investigate the impact of climate change on pesticide application safety.
4. Strengthening Healthcare Engagement - Increase the accuracy and timelines of pesticide-related illness reporting from the medical community.
5. Expanding Training and Outreach - Broaden the scope of training and education efforts to include all at-risk groups within the agricultural community.
6. Enhancing Public Participation and Transparency - Ensure that the voices of farmworkers and affected communities are heard and incorporated into PASCO's decision-making process.
7. Evaluating and Leveraging New Technologies - Explore and implement emerging technologies that can enhance pesticide application safety.
8. Enhancing Prevention Strategies - Shift the focus from reactive to proactive measures in pesticide safety.





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# PESTICIDE APPLICATION SAFETY COMMITTEE ROSTER

Committee Member Position	Name	Position	Email
Legislative Member	Saldana, Rebecca	Senator	Rebecca.Saldana@leg.wa.gov
Legislative Member	Tom Dent	Representative	tom.dent@leg.wa.gov
Legislative Member	Warnick, Judy	Senator	judy.warnick@leg.wa.gov
Legislative Member	Lillian Ortiz-Self	Representative	lillian.ortiz-self@leg.wa.gov
WSDA	Ignacio Marquez (Primary)	Regional Assistant to the Director	IMarquez@agr.wa.gov
	Kelly McLain (Alternate)	Assistant Director, Agricultural Environmental Services Division	kaardal@agr.wa.gov
Department of Health	Lauren Jenks (Primary)	Assistance Secretary of Environmental Public Health	Lauren.Jenks@doh.wa.gov
	Laura Johnson (Alternate)	Director- Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences	laura.johnson@doh.wa.gov
L&I	Craig Blackwood	Assistant Director for the Division of Occupational Safety and Health	BLAC235@LNI.WA.GOV
	Joel Sacks (Primary)	Director - sacj235@LNI.WA.GOV	
Public Lands	Hilary Franz (Primary)	Commissioner - Hilary.Franz@dnr.wa.gov	
	Calvin Ohlson-Kiehn (Designee)	Assistant Manager, Forest Resources Division	<a href="mailto:CALVIN.OHLSON-KIEHN@dnr.wa.gov">CALVIN.OHLSON-KIEHN@dnr.wa.gov</a>
WSU College of Agricultural, Health, and Natural Resources Sciences (CAHNRS)	Holly Louise Neibergs	Assistant Director - CAHNRS	<a href="mailto:neibergs@wsu.edu">neibergs@wsu.edu</a>
University of Washington Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health (PNASH)	Edward Kasner	Research Scientist and Outreach Director	<a href="mailto:eikasner@uw.edu">eikasner@uw.edu</a>
Washington State University Extension.	Gwen Hoheisel	Professor, Regional Extension Educator	<a href="mailto:gwhoheisel@wsu.edu">gwhoheisel@wsu.edu</a>

# Advisory Work Group Roster

Member Position (as defined by SB5550)	Organization	Name	Email
Representative from WSDA	WSDA	Ofelio Borges	oborges@agr.wa.gov
Employee - organization that represent farmworkers	OIC of Washington	Lupe Sanchez	L.S@yvoic.org
Employee - organization that represent farmworkers	Northwest Communities Education Center Radio KDNA	Elizabeth Torres	<a href="mailto:etorres@kdna.org">etorres@kdna.org</a>
Farmworker with expertise on pesticide application	Farmworker	VACANT	
Farmworker with expertise on pesticide application	Farmworker Mercer Canyons Farms	Josh Gefre	<a href="mailto:joshg@mercerranches.com">joshg@mercerranches.com</a>
Representative of community and migrant health centers		Vacant	
Toxicologist	Retired Internal medicine occupational medicine specialist	Matt Keifer	mkeifer@uw.edu
Representative of growers who use air blast sprayer	Red Apple Orchards	April Clayton	ajclayton@tumwater.net
Representative of growers who use aerial pesticide application	Grower	Lynn Olsen	<a href="mailto:LJOlsen@cbbn.net">LJOlsen@cbbn.net</a>
Representative of growers who use fumigation to apply pesticides	Weyns Farms	Kees Weyns	<a href="mailto:keesweyns@aol.com">keesweyns@aol.com</a>
Representative of aerial applicators	Washington Aerial Applicators	Erin Morse	erinimorse@gmail.com

## Data

1. Explore how the departments of agriculture, labor and industries, and health, and the Washington poison center collect and track data.
2. Lead an effort to establish baseline data for the type and quantity of pesticide applications used in Washington to be able to compare the number of exposures with overall number of applications

## Communication

3. Consider developing an effective community health education plan
4. Consult with community partners to enhance educational initiatives that work with the agricultural workforce, their families, and surrounding communities to reduce the risk of pesticide exposure
5. Explore development of an agricultural workforce education safety program to improve the understanding about leaving an area being sprayed
6. Research ways to improve pesticide application communication among different members of the agricultural community, including educating the public in English and Spanish about acute and chronic health information about pesticides

## Best Practices and Protocols

7. Improve pesticide application safety with agricultural applications
8. Compile industry's best practices for use to improve pesticide application safety to limit pesticide exposure
9. Explore incentives for using new technology by funding a partial buy-out program for old spray technology
10. Evaluate prevention techniques to minimize exposure events
11. Work with industry and the agricultural workforce to improve protocols and best practices for use of personal safety equipment for applicators and reflective gear for the general workforce

## Reporting

12. Continue to investigate reasons why members of the agricultural workforce do not or may not report pesticide exposure;
13. Explore new avenues for reporting with investigation without fear of retaliation
14. Work with stakeholders to consider trainings for how and when to report

## External Partners

15. Develop more Spanish language and other language educational materials for distribution, including through social media and app-based learning for agricultural workforce communities
16. Enhance efforts to work with pesticide manufacturers and the environmental protection agency to improve access to non-English pesticide labeling in the United States
17. Work with research partners to develop, or promote the use of translation apps for pesticide label safety information, or both



## DRINKING WATER & PESTICIDE SPRAYING

Office of Drinking Water  
Engineering & Technical Services

# Pesticide Application Safety Committee

Olympia, WA/Virtual

September 3, 2024



**Deborah Johnson**

*Wellhead Protection Program Coordinator*

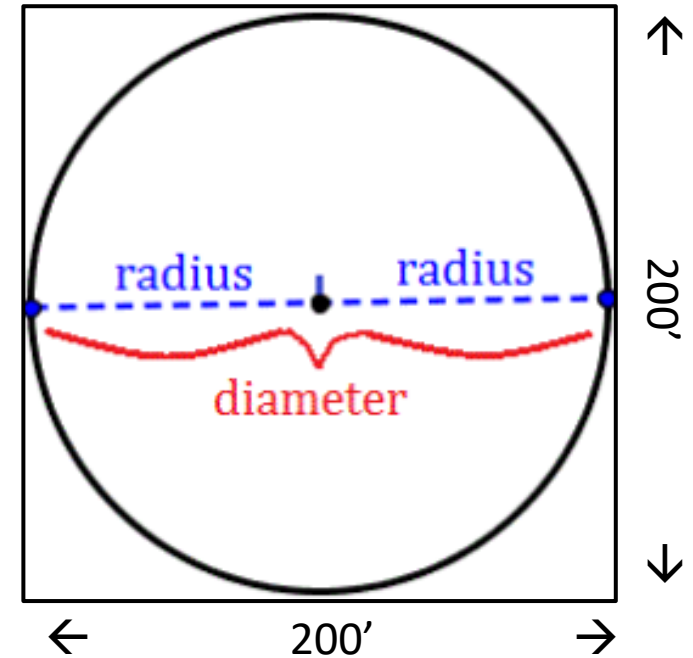
Source Water Protection Program

# Source Water Protection—Generally

- 1996 amendments to federal Safe Drinking Water Act (40 CFR C. I §300j-13 Source water quality assessment), leading to states creating source water assessment programs that include sanitary surveys & sanitary control areas (SCAs)
- “Systematic program for conducting sanitary surveys” is key in maintaining state primacy for regulating drinking water (40 CFR Ch. I § 142.10(b)(2) & § 142.16(3))
- SCAs are generally encompassed in “sanitary survey” activities in definitions (40 CFR Ch. I § 141.2 & 142.2)

# What's an SCA?

Also known as “sanitary setback,” 100’ radius (200’ diameter) around a drinking water well to be kept free of potential contaminant sources. Among other things, this includes stormwater features and injection controls. The water system must directly control this area through ownership or easement/covenant.





# SCA Requirements

- Group A public water systems (generally, Ch. 246-290 WAC – water system plan, wellhead protection program, & source approval process under DOH/ODW purview)
- Group B public water systems (generally, Ch. 246-291 WAC – system plan, source approval, design approval under DOH/ODW and local health jurisdiction purview)
- Also has a relationship with local-level critical areas/critical aquifer recharge areas regulations under GMA





# What's the issue?

- Uptick in contacts from water systems re conflicts with local weed control boards: “They’re requiring us to spray in the SCA” (~2019)
- RCW/WAC don’t require weed control boards to consider source water protection
- WAC 16-228-1220(2): Restriction on applicators (shall not pollute “water supplies”)
- Heightened outreach/education to water systems about weed control requirements

# Emphasis Points to Water Purveyors

- Disconnect between noxious weed control regs and source water protection
- Familiarity with state/local noxious weed lists applicable to purveyor's geographic area  
Example: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/public-works/noxious-weeds/noxious-weed-list>  
(\*All three on one webpage)
- Familiarity with what these weeds look like when they're immature
- Early and continuous removal
- Worker safety



## Example: Spotted Spurge



Listed varieties: *E. myrsinites*,  
*oblongata*, & *virgata*

Milky, toxic sap

“A Pesky Plant That Loves Dry  
Weather and Bad Soil

Spurge weed (*Euphorbia maculata*),  
also known as spotted spurge, milk-  
purslane, or prostrate spurge  
(though not the same as *E.*  
*prostrata*), is an extremely common  
invasive weed.

It is native to Eastern North  
America and often grows out of  
sidewalk cracks and along  
walkways.”

Source: <https://www.thespruce.com/spurge-weed-identification-removal-6504120>

# Example: Japanese Knotweed

*Fallopia japonica*; also other varieties listed statewide (*F. × bohemica* and *sachalinensis*, and *Persicaria wallichii*)

Rhizome

Preferred treatment:  
glyphosate when heads are  
blooming, but...bees love it  
when it's blooming

Property owned by city in city's  
wellhead protection area





# Example: Giant Hogweed

*Heracleum mantegazzianum*,  
listed statewide

Sap is highly phototoxic

Spotlight worker safety aspect

Credit: Scottish Invasive Species Initiative  
Don Catchment Rivers Trust (UK)





Key is identifying and removing (preferably digging)  
**before** it gets established



# Other Drinking Water-Related Spraying Interests

- Forestry areas, especially rural/post-harvest
- Pest control (gypsy moth, etc.)
- Aquatic controls (weeds, mosquitoes, etc.)
- Agricultural lands

# Technical Assistance

**Deborah Johnson**  
**Wellheads/ground water**

253-433-4054

[deborah.johnson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:deborah.johnson@doh.wa.gov)

**Stan Hoffman**  
**Watersheds/surface water**

509-564-4663

[stan.hoffman@doh.wa.gov](mailto:stan.hoffman@doh.wa.gov)

<https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water/source-water/source-water-protection>





Questions





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## PESTICIDE ILLNESS SURVILLANCE & PREVENTION PROGRAM

Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences  
Environmental Public Health Division

# Ongoing Improvements in the Pesticide Program

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## **Accelerated Case Closure**

- Reduced average case closure time from 3-4 months to approx. 45 days.

## **Real-Time Data Quality Control**

- Monthly QA/QC of closed cases by epidemiologists and investigators.

## **Prevention-Focused Approach**

- Reinvigorated emphasis on prevention, ensuring compliance with SPIDER database p-coding.

## **Quarterly Event and Prevention QA/QC**

- Real-time review and feedback on event and prevention narratives on a quarterly basis.

## **Standardization of Data Collection**

- Significant efforts to standardize data collection and ensure compliance.

## **Engagement and Training Initiatives:**

### Re-engaged Agricultural Worker Training:

- Participation in 2023/2024 Ag Safety Days in Wenatchee, Yakima. Joined planning committee for future Ag Safety Days, informed by DOH data analysis to guide relevant topics.

### Enhanced Investigator Training:

- All pesticide investigators attended WSDA pesticide handler training.

## **Leveraging Quarterly Reviews:**

- Real-time collaboration and case review among investigators.

# Overview of the Quarterly Informal Review Assignment for DOH Pesticide Investigators

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## **Objective:**

- Facilitate a quarterly review for investigators to share insights and learning.
- Enhance collective knowledge and investigative practices.

## **Key Areas of Focus:**

- Case Highlights
- Challenges and Solutions
- Useful Contacts
- Training Opportunities

## **Presentation Guidelines:**

- **Format:** Use simple slides or visuals.
- **Duration:** Aim for a 15–20-minute presentation.
- **Atmosphere:** Supportive, encouraging shared learning and collective problem-solving.

# Q1 & Q2 Overview: Pesticide Exposure Investigations

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## **Key Numbers:**

- Total Reports Closed: 111 cases of exposure-related illnesses.

## **Referrals:**

- Sent/Received:
  - To/From LNI: 3 cases
  - To/From WSDA: 5 cases

## **Interviews Conducted:**

- Total: 71 interviews
  - No significant trend identified, representing a diverse range of sources.

## **Occupational Status of Cases:**

- Occupational Exposure: 58 cases
  - Associated LNI Claims: 38 out of 58 cases linked to an LNI claim number.



# Investigative Challenges Encountered in Q1 & Q2

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## Medical Records:

- Accessibility Issues:
  - Difficult to obtain; often received very late.
  - Frequently missing key demographics; typically sent by mail.
  - Missing Records
  - Non-Encounter Reports: stating the patient was not seen when other report source states otherwise.
- Medical Record Content:
  - Provider does not have access to pesticide name or label or SDS at time of appointment.
  - Exposure barely addressed, visit focused elsewhere.

## Documentation Errors:

- Incorrect Information:
  - Incorrect phone numbers/no phone number, missing DOB, incomplete names on initial report of incidents.

## Spray Records

- Accessibility Issues:
  - Challenges with office staff in understanding DOH role, especially when L&I claim number is associated with exposure.

## L&I Claims Weekly Ascertainment

- Claim information often available several weeks after the exposure incident, affecting timely response.

## Referrals

- Consent
  - Difficulty obtaining consent for referral due to fear, and or lack of confidence in they system.

# Useful Contacts

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## **Useful Contacts for Enhanced Collaboration**

### WSDA Area Managers & Investigators:

- Key resource for obtaining and locating spray records, especially when facing challenges with employers.
- Assist in contacting farms for timely spray record requests.

## **Proposed Initiatives:**

### Spray Records Contact File:

- Create a centralized file for difficult-to-reach farm contacts to streamline future spray record requests.
- Saves time and effort by providing easy reference for re-establishing contact with challenging orchards.

### List of Infectious Disease Nurses:

- Compile a list of nurses at facilities with frequent report delays to improve targeted follow-ups.
- Enhance communication and expedite report collection by maintaining this contact list.



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PESTICIDE APPLICATION SAFETY  
COMMITTEE EXTENSION  
Agency Requested Legislation Summary

# PASCO Extension Summary

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PASCO is set to expire in July 1, 2025, but the ongoing health risks and legislative needs persist.

**PASCO's Recommendation:** Submit Agency Request Legislation (ARL) to extend PASCO through 2035 with important updates:

- Eliminate teleconferencing requirement to improve engagement.
- Assign DOH as sole administrator to streamline operations.

# Proposed Changes : RCW 70.104.110

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**Sole Administration:** DOH becomes the sole administrator of PASCO, removing WSDA's co-administration role.

**In-Person Meetings:** Removes the requirement for teleconferencing for all but one PASCO or advisory work group meeting, allowing in-person meetings, particularly in target geographies.

**Non-Voting Legislative Members:** Establishes legislative members as non-voting participants in committee decision-making.

**Legislative Staff Support:** Mandates that legislative staff provide capacity and research support for legislative committee members.

**Extension of PASCO:** Extends the session expiration date from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2035.

**Emergency Clause:** Includes an emergency clause for the legislation to take effect immediately.

# Executive Summary of Fiscal Note: PASCO Extension

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## **Total Cost:**

- FY 2026: \$318,000; FY 2027 & Ongoing: \$310,000/year
- 2025-2027 Biennium: \$628,000; 2027-2031 Biennium: \$620,000/biennium
- Covers salaries, benefits, goods & services, travel, and interagency reimbursements.

## **Total FTEs: 1.8 annually, starting July 1, 2025**

- Public Health Advisor 3 (1.0 FTE): Administrative & logistical support for PASCO.
- Program Manager (0.3 FTE): Oversees PASCO's administrative functions.
- Epidemiologist 2 (0.2 FTE): Manages pesticide exposure data.
- Administrative Assistant 3 (0.3 FTE): Supports scheduling, note-taking, and meeting prep.

## **Travel & Community Compensation:**

- Work Group Travel: \$9,598/year for in-person meetings (travel, lodging, per diem).
- Community Compensation: \$8,910/year for advisory work group members.



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