

THE MDA PESTICIDE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



Pesticide Training

On March 12, 2020, Governor Steve Bullock declared a State of Emergency related to the global outbreak of the communicable disease Covid-19, and we are all still feeling the impact.

Due to health precautions, MDA was unable to conduct in-person training for the remainder of 2020. MDA has transitioned to online via Zoom to provide virtual trainings for applicators and dealers needing credit for license renewal throughout the state. The webinars were welcomed by applicators and dealers and the attendance quickly grew from 50 to over 150 participants per class.

The MDA seeks to expand its online training by providing an **Initial Core webinar** in March and additional training opportunities planned for the near future. Visit our website for upcoming information at: <https://agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Training-Recertification-Program>

PESTICIDE LICENSING

COMMERCIAL APPLICATORS!

REMINDER: Beginning January 1, 2021, liability insurance will be the only accepted means of financial responsibility. **Commercial applicators** required to meet the financial responsibility requirements of the pesticide license must do so through insurance. Proof of financial responsibility must be provided before a license is issued.

Aerial applicators must have an insurance policy with minimum relative liability limits of \$50,000. All other commercial applicators must carry minimum relative coverage of \$30,000. Coverage must be maintained in full force, be effective the entire licensing period, and must cover any off-target chemical damage. See [Administrative Rules of Montana \(ARM\) 4.10.101 through 4.10.108](#) for additional clarification pertaining to requirements and exemptions.

Remember, it is your responsibility to make sure the information on your license is correct. Please review your license for completeness and accuracy. [MTPlants](#)



Greetings!...from MDA's New Pesticide Registration Specialist, *Shaunie Aklestad*

"Hello, I am the new Pesticide Registration Specialist with the Department of Agriculture.

This is a very exciting NEW opportunity where I look forward to applying my professional skills and hands-on approach to the pesticide program and keeping the tremendous work of those before me moving ahead! My love for rural MT started in July 2016, when I left my accounting job to begin farming alongside my husband. Like most seedlings, I grow where I am planted and look forward to all the new opportunities that lie ahead! Please feel free to reach out to me and introduce yourself, I am very excited to be working with all of you here at Ag!!"

Shaunie



How can I test?

MDA is currently offering limited exam service to new pesticide license applicants and those wishing to recertify or add categories to an existing license. Due to COVID-19, exam protocols have changed to ensure the safety of both applicants and protors. If interested in testing , contact a local [MDA Field Office](#).

Testing is by appointment only.

PESTICIDE REGISTRATIONS

Is your pesticide product registered?

Montana state law requires all pesticides used or sold must be registered with the state.

Use our website's "[Brand Search](#)" options to ensure your are using registered pesticide products.

<https://agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Product-Registration>

Did you know pesticide labels are *legally enforceable*?

Labels carry the statement: "It is a violation of Federal Law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling." In other words, ***the label is the law***. Many issues arise when labels are not followed. Property damage, injury to people, animals, and the environment are often the result of not reading the pesticide label thoroughly or at all. Applicators are responsible to ensure all avoidance procedures are followed.

- Pesticide labeling contains the **PPE** requirements for the use of the specific pesticide product. Use the proper and functioning **PPE** every time.
- Proper pest identification is essential for effective pest management. Pest control requires using the correct pesticide for the pest and using it according to the pesticide label. The right product, technique, and schedule save time and money.



How to Register for Pesticide Training Online

Online training is available! Applicators and dealers can earn up to 6 credits for each category, each [recertification cycle](#), through MDA approved online training. To find available courses, visit our [course locator](#).



WPS - Revisions to the AEZ

On October 30, 2020, the EPA finalized updates to the Worker Protection Standard regulations to improve the long-term success of the agency's Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) provisions. The final AEZ requirements went into effect on December 29, 2020.

This may affect information found on pages ii, 2, 3, 6, 7, **37 & 38**, 60 & 61, 90, 91, 94, **103**, 110, 113, 114, **118, 119**, and **121 - 123** of the [How To Comply Manual](#).

****Note:** Bolded numbers refer to pages that would be most affected by the EPA's changes.

To read this information click below:
[EPA, Worker Protection Standard AEZ](#)

A View from MDA's Vertebrate Pest Specialist, Stephen Vantassel, CWCP, ACE

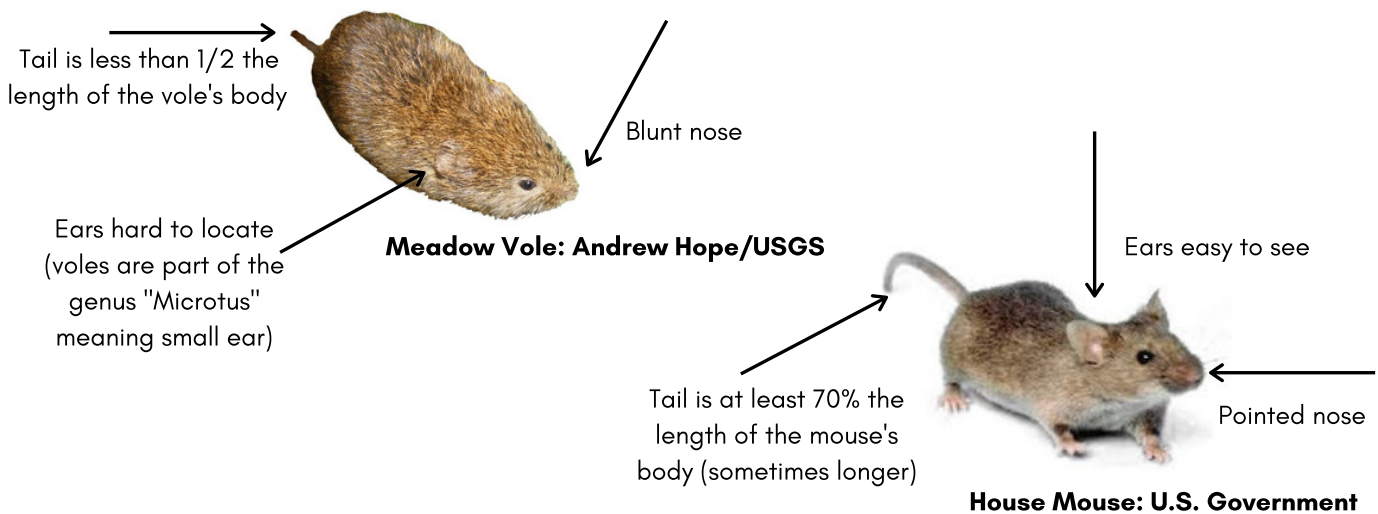


Vole or Mouse?

The ability to properly identify pests is one of the most important skills pest control operators can have. Correct pest identification ensures you use the right control methods and whether control even needs to be performed.

Mice and voles are two pests that can be easily misidentified. They are both rodents, small, and not commonly seen. To make matters more confusing, many people call voles, "meadow mice."

To illustrate the differences between voles and mice, focus your attention on following features:



Visit [Montana's vertebrate pests](#) for more information



Reminder! Applicators using paraquat dichloride, commonly referred to as "paraquat," must successfully complete an EPA-approved training program before mixing, loading, and/or applying this product. This training is offered [here](#).

Pesticide Program Contacts

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