Agricultural Sprayer Technology Training

The situation

Responsible and accurate application of agricultural chemicals can increase a producer's crop yields and net income while minimally impacting the environment. Application rates are considered accurate when they are within ±10% of the desired rate. University and industry studies show that only 10–40% of growers' sprayers apply chemicals at acceptably accurate rates. However, research also shows that calibrating and modifying sprayers with inexpensive up-dates will result in sprayers applying proper rates of agricultural chemicals.

Our response

The University of Idaho, Jerome County Extension Office developed a one-day program to educate growers and commercial applicators about the environmental and economic importance of accurate agri-chemical application. Growers and commercial applicators were trained in proper sprayer design, set-up and operation, proper chemical handling and safety, and how chemical misapplication affects their profit and the environment. Topics also included: Pesticide fate in the environment, pesticide container disposal, and proper methods for incorporating herbicides.

Cooperators and co-sponsors

The Ag. Sprayer Technology Workshop was organized by the Jerome County Extension Office with cooperation from the North Side Soil and Water Conversation District, and sponsored by Floyd Lilly Co., Twin Falls; Snake River Chemicals, Jerome; Ag-West, Burley; Ace Supply, Caldwell; and G & R Ag. Products, Caldwell.

Achievements

Over 130 growers and commercial agri-chemical applicators were educated through this workshop. These applicators developed a better understanding of how important it is to properly apply chemicals and how much money can be saved by calibrating application equipment. A sprayer equipment exhibit provided everyone with an opportunity to view the latest in agri-chemical application equipment.

The future

The successful Agricultural Sprayer Technology Workshop and Trade Show will be held again in the CSI Ag. Pavilion where growers can have more opportunity for "hands-on" experience in sprayer calibration and agri-chemical safety.
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