



July 14, 2006

Re: Pesticide Applicator Training
April 20 & 21, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

**Flathead Reservation
Extension Office**

Earlier this year I was contacted by the CSKT Department of Lands to organize pesticide applicator training for the Tribe. When I started researching the different licenses and the people who wanted the training, it was apparent we would have a considerable amount of Tribal employees who required a government license to apply pesticides on Tribal properties. The State of Montana only allows Extension Agents to train and license private/farm applicators.

All training and licensing for government applicator licenses must be handled by the State of Montana. The State holds trainings annually. Due to the number of Tribal employees needing an applicator's license it would be too costly to send them to the State's annual three day training. Thus, the State of Montana provided me with our local State Specialist, Sarah Holden, to administer government tests at my private applicator training (PAT). I worked out the details of the training with Janet Kirkland, State Training and Development Specialist. If not for Janet and Sara, I would not have been able to offer Tribal employees a government license. This was the first time the State of Montana allowed testing for government applicators at the PAT level.

Due to the limited amount of information provided at a PAT, all participants who registered were provided books well in advance of the training with several reminders to read their books before the training. We advised the participants that we would not cover all of the material in the manuals.

Next, I will hold a fall training to increase the skills and knowledge of our pesticide applicators and help them acquire credits for their government license and/or private license. At our fall training, I will also encourage the government applicators to obtain a private applicator's license if they require pest management on land they rent, lease or own.

*Montana State University,
U.S. Department of
Agriculture and Montana
Counties Cooperating.
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P.O. Box 335
Pablo, MT 59855-0335
www.msuxextension.org

Tel (406) 675-2700
ext. 1246, 1247
Fax (406) 675-2804
flatheadreservation@montana.edu

T. Rene Kittle
Flathead Reservation Extension Agent