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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 4/6/2018

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Arkansas Pesticide Division Hosts EPA Pesticide Regulatory Education Program

STATEWIDE, ARK. – Pesticide Division personnel of the Arkansas Agriculture Department hosted Arkansas’s first Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP) Course in Little Rock on March 19-23. PREP courses are coordinated through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State University. Thirty-six states and tribes were represented, along with Puerto Rico, American Samoa Environmental Protection agency and the US EPA.

PREP is an educational program for state, territory or tribal pesticide compliance and enforcement program managers and inspector supervisors that work under a [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act](#) (FIFRA) cooperative agreement. Participants are selected through a formal nomination process and are brought together to collaborate about pesticide investigation and enforcement issues through presentation of case studies and group discussions. Learn more about PREP Courses, [here](#).

“We were honored to serve as the host state for this educational course that allowed for the discussion of current challenges and the exchange of ideas between pesticide professionals from across country,” says Pesticide Division Manager Susie Nichols. “Our team helped build an agenda that focused on issues specific to Arkansas including sessions on admissible evidence, noncompliant use determinations versus inherent product problems, and factors affecting the off-target movement of herbicides.”

Participants toured Tidwell Flying Service in Carlisle and heard presentations on ground application equipment and pesticide application. “Training like this helps keep our staff well connected to the best available strategies and tools in our industry. Our staff worked hard to ensure that students in this course leave more familiar with challenges that are unique to Arkansas applicators and producers, and with a better understanding of national agricultural challenges within pesticide regulation and enforcement,” said Arkansas Agriculture Department’s State Plant Board Director Terry Walker.

During the most recent fiscal year, 1,314 manufacturers registered 13,670 products through the Arkansas Pesticide Division. This division oversaw the licensing of 20,769 private applicators, 995 commercial individual applications, and 602 non-commercial applicators for the use and/or supervision of the use of restricted use pesticides. This division also tested 65 ground water wells for pollution from agricultural chemicals through lab testing of ground water samples. Learn more about licenses, services, and programs from the Arkansas Pesticide Division, [here](#).

The Pesticide Division is a division of the Agriculture Department’s State Plant Board. The Arkansas Agriculture Department is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit www.aad.arkansas.gov.

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The Arkansas Agriculture Department offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

