

Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Virginia Cooperative Extension Recognition Awards Program
2016 Guidelines

Introduction

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has implemented a Recognition Awards Program for Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) agents involved in pesticide safety education, pesticide container recycling and pesticide disposal programs. The intent of the Recognition Awards Program is to recognize outstanding performance in the three program areas.

Annual recognition awards will be presented to outstanding VCE personnel in pesticide safety education, pesticide container recycling and pesticide disposal program areas. The specific details of each of the three areas are as follows:

Pesticide Safety Education

1. Three awards are given for outstanding pesticide safety education programs. The awards (*first, second and third place*) are determined by ranking the nominations per the established criteria and points system. In addition, honorable mention awards may be made.
2. Nominations are accepted from VCE agents, Specialists, District Directors and staff along with OPS Pesticide Investigators.
3. **A VCE agent may not nominate him/herself; however, an agent who assisted with a program may nominate the team leader.**
4. **The VCE agent(s) nominated must have been properly certified in Demonstration & Research Pest Control at the time of the event.**
5. **Nominations are accepted for programs which took place between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016. All nominations are due to the Nominations Committee by July 18, 2016.**
6. The nomination criteria and points associated with each are:
 - a. Effectiveness In Delivery Of Information (30 points)
 - b. Innovative Training Techniques (15 points);

- c. Teaching New Information (15 points);
- d. Access To Pesticide Safety Education Program (10 points);
- e. Pesticide Safety Education Program Evaluation (15 points); and
- f. Impact Of The Course On The Participants (15 points).

Nominations are submitted in narrative format addressing the established nomination criteria.

7. A Nominations Committee is established and responsible for encouraging nominations and keeping the recognition awards program visible during the nominating period. The Nominations Committee will consist of representatives of VCE and OPS. All nominations shall be reviewed by the Nominations Committee for completion prior to submission to the Selections Committee for evaluation and selection.
8. The Nominations Committee may not submit any nominations as a Committee; however, individual members of the Nominations Committee may submit a nomination(s).
9. Members of the Selections Committee may not make nominations.
10. Nominations are evaluated by a Selections Committee representing the VTPP, OPS and VCE. The Selections Committee presently consists of the following:
 - Dr. Bobby Grisso, VCE;
 - Dr. Mike Weaver, VTPP;
 - Ms. Tonita Clark, OPS; and,
 - Ms. Vickie Rengers, OPS.
11. Awards are presented at Pesticide Safety Educator's Workshop each year by VDACS Commissioner, or designee.
12. Each award is a plaque and a basket of Virginia's Finest products.
13. VDACS issues a statewide news release about the awards and its recipients, as well as articles in the VCE newsletter.

Pesticide Container Recycling Program

1. The award is available to any VCE agent participating in the pesticide container recycling program and does not require nominations.
2. The award selection criteria are:
 - a. % of farmers participating (of the total number of farmers in a participating locality);
 - b. Container rejection rate at the time of granulation;

- c. Collection site appearance;
 - d. Innovative program in regards to advertising and/or collection; and
 - e. VCE agent involvement.
3. The OPS Program Manager and program coordinator of the statewide pesticide container recycling program are responsible for evaluating each locality's program against the selection criteria and making the selection of the award recipient.
 4. The award is presented at the Pesticide Safety Educator's Workshop each year.
 5. The award is a plaque and a basket of Virginia's Finest products.
 6. VDACS issues a statewide news release about the award and its recipient, as well as articles in the VCE newsletter.

Pesticide Disposal Program

1. The award is available to any VCE agent participating in the pesticide disposal program and does not require nominations.
2. The award selection criteria are:
 - a. Promotion of the program;
 - b. Meeting deadlines;
 - c. VCE agent involvement;
 - d. Program administration (maps, media, personnel, etc.);
 - e. Working with the contractor; and,
 - f. Working with the pesticide investigator.
3. Candidate programs are evaluated by OPS personnel involved in the program (program coordinator and pesticide investigators).
4. The award is presented at the Pesticide Safety Educator's Workshop each year.
5. The award is a plaque and a basket of Virginia's Finest products.
6. VDACS issues a statewide news release on the award and its recipient, as well as articles in the VCE newsletter.

[Revised 05/6/16]