



History

Dean Herzfeld, Ph.D.

Legacy and History Contributing Editor,
Journal of Pesticide Safety Education
and AAPSE Historian

Photo: Don Brennen

Topics in AAPSE History

Origins of Pesticide Certification & Training

Origins of AAPSE out of C&T and Extension

Efforts to Sustain PESPs

Evolution of AAPSE as an Organization

Sources – PSEP Coordinators Interviews

- Mike Weaver, Virginia Tech, retired
 - Photos are Mike Weaver's unless otherwise noted
- Norm Nesheim, University of Florida, Retired
 - History of AAPSE for AAPSE's Charter 20th Anniversary
- Amy Brown, University of Maryland, retired
- Jim Criswell, Oklahoma State, retired
- Barry Brennen, University of Hawaii, deceased

Sources

- National Stakeholder Team for Pesticide Safety Education Program Funding
- AAPSE website
- Personal communications
- US Congressional Record
- USDA and US EPA sources
- I was there starting in 1987

Pesticide Application 1910



Photo: Fine Art America

20th Century

1910 – US Congress passes Federal Insecticide Act

First federal law regulating pesticides.
Design to protect farmers from
fraudulent pesticide claims

1945 – DDT

DDT widely used by US military during WWII



Photo: Biomedicalemphebra

What is now the US Fish and Wild Service published research documenting DDT's environmental harm including to fish and raptors eggshells.

Rachel Carson was a biologist and communications writer for the Service at the time

DDT first offered for public sale and is with widely used

FIFRA 1947

New era in federal pesticide regulation

AAPCO forms the same year in response to FIFRA

USDA is lead federal agency for pesticide regulation



Photo: Western Auction Co.

1947 Model A

1950's – Regulatory Firsts

1950-51 - First hearings in Congress on pesticide safety

1954 - Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act amendments
where FDA is authorized to:

- set pesticides safety limits in food
- ban pesticides when sprayed directly on food crops that are deemed unsafe

1950's – Regulatory Firsts

1954 – Food Drug and Cosmetic Act amendments include the ***Delaney Clause***

zero amount of any 'carcinogenic' pesticides allowed in processed foods

1959 - FIFRA amendment requires federal pesticide ***registration***

1960

—COOPERATIVE— EXTENSION

Following the 1959 Thanksgiving
Without Cranberries Pesticide Scare...

USDA-Extension formally requests state and territorial Land-Grant University Extension Services to establish a
Pesticide Coordinator

***“to receive, interpret, and disseminate information
regarding pesticides”***

to those who used them.

September 27, 1962

Publication of
Silent Spring
by Rachel Carson

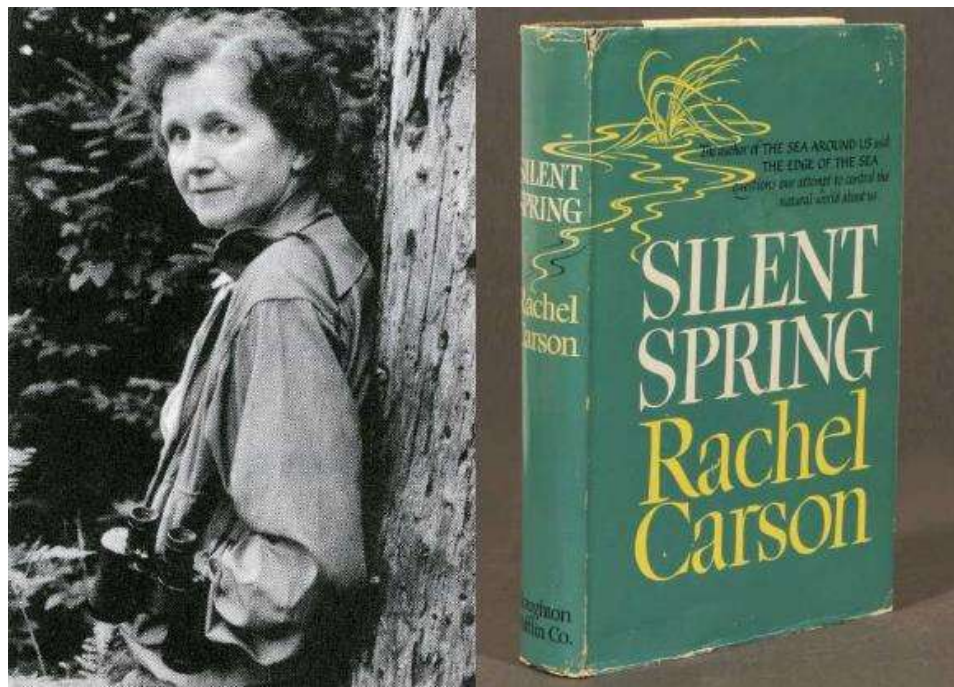


Photo: The Woodstock Whisperer

1964 – First Federal Funding to PSEPs

Silent Spring sparked a major public outcry over pesticides harm to the environment

Also led to a switch from mostly lower human toxicity *organochlorines* (DDT, etc.) ...

...to mostly highly acutely toxic *organophosphates* to minimize environmental harm

In response US Congress provided funding to support Extension's pesticide education programs

1964 – USDA Extension

Federal Funding to State Extension:

- Expand ***Pesticide Applicator Training*** (PAT) state programs
- Mitigate harm from pesticides by educating applicators
- First manuals developed by states
- \$1 million dollars annually
= \$9,100,000 today's dollars



Larry the Label
Campaign

Late 1960's - Early 1970's

ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC AND
LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES



Extension Committee on Policy (ECOP),
where state Extension Directors set national policy and
priorities for Extension. Part of what is now APLU
establishes:

- The ***Work Group on Pesticide Education***
- PAT program ***ECOP liaisons*** for each of the four USDA
Extension regions



Early 1970's – C&T Created

By 1970 a few states had established commercial pesticide applicator certification programs

1970 – President Nixon, by executive order, creates US EPA and takes on pesticide regulation from USDA

1972 – Amended FIFRA sets new pesticide safety standards and creates RUPs and C&T with explicit purpose...

...to provide the *additional education* applicators need to use RUPs safely, as an alternative to product use cancellation

Mid 1970's – C&T Implementation

1974 – 1976 John Osum, Chair of Purdue Entomology dept.
named head of Operations Division in US EPA OPP to
over see implementation of C&T

1974 – 40 CFR 171 revised to implement new FIFRA
certification requirements - to go *in effect in 1976*

1975 – 40 CFR 171 revised requiring certification state plans

1978 – US EPA classifies the first 12 pesticides as RUPs

Mid 1970's – Designing C&T

- 1974 – US EPA sponsors the first national meeting of PAT Coordinators in Minneapolis, MN to design the pesticide certification program
- 1975 – AAPCO involvement as SLA's begin work on first certification state plans for US EPA approval
- 1975 – Amended FIFRA directs US EPA '**shall use**' Extension Service for pesticide safety and regulations education

Mid 1970's – Designing C&T

- 1975 – US EPA and USDA establish a Cooperative Agreement to '***pass through***' EPA funds to state PAT programs
- 1975 – US EPA contracts for the first ***national core manuals***, commercial and private, with NC State University
- 1978 – AAPCO and US EPA sign a Cooperative Agreement establishing the State Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) to jointly address pesticide regulatory issues and policies



1983 Northeast Pesticide Coordinators Meeting, Bangor, MA

1970's USDA Extension & ECOP's Role

USDA-Extension establishes a ***PAT National Program Leader***

1974 – 1st Southern Regional Meeting of PAT Coordinators. SLA C&T staff invited for the first time for the 1980 meeting

ECOP Work Group formalizes regional PAT coordinator meetings

1978 - **ECOP Work Group** hosts first national pesticide C&T meeting (now PACT) in Dallas, TX. In 1987 sets a every other year schedule.

1980's Extension - ECOP's Role

1982 - **ECOP Work Group** reorganized as **Pesticide Education Task Force** with reps from PAT Coordinators and SLAs C&T and with US EPA and USDA liaisons

ECOP Task Force recommends expansion of recertification

ECOP Task Force provides input to USDA on Pesticide Impact Assessment and IPM programs

1989 - ECOP *eliminates* what was by then called the Task Force on Pest Management and Environment

April 17, 1991 AAPSE Begins

At the National C&T (PACT) meeting in Arlington, VA...

Barry Brennen, U of HI, calls a meeting chaired by Norm Nesheim, U of FL, of Extension PAT program folks to form an organization

to provide *professional development* and give

‘PAT Coordinators a voice at table’

Why the Need for AAPSE

ECOP eliminated the only structure for PAT representation at regional and national levels and within Extension

PAT seen as an aging 'legacy' program by USDA, ECOP and US EPA providing declining support and funding

A growing number of complex issues facing PAT and the C&T program and in which PAT Coordinators had expertise

AAPCO, ASPCRO and the SFIREG system prime focus was on SLA and regulatory concerns

1991 – First *National Association of Pesticide Safety Educators* Charter

After lengthy and intense discussion, a motion passed to form a Charter Committee to establish the organization

Reps from USDA and US EPA in attendance strongly supported the action

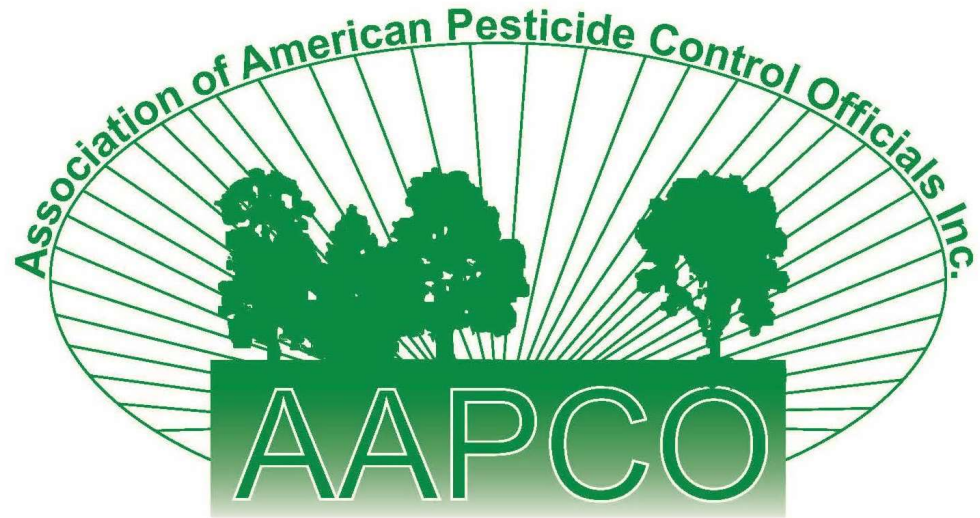
Attendees signed the informal charter resolution drafted at the meeting

Canadian pesticide educators in attendance were encouraged to join – later resulted in name change

AAPCO's Role

AAPCO strongly encouraged the formation of a sister organization for PAT programs

- Provided advocacy and networking for AAPSE with private sector organizations and government agencies
- Mentored AAPSE on organizational structure and the constitution



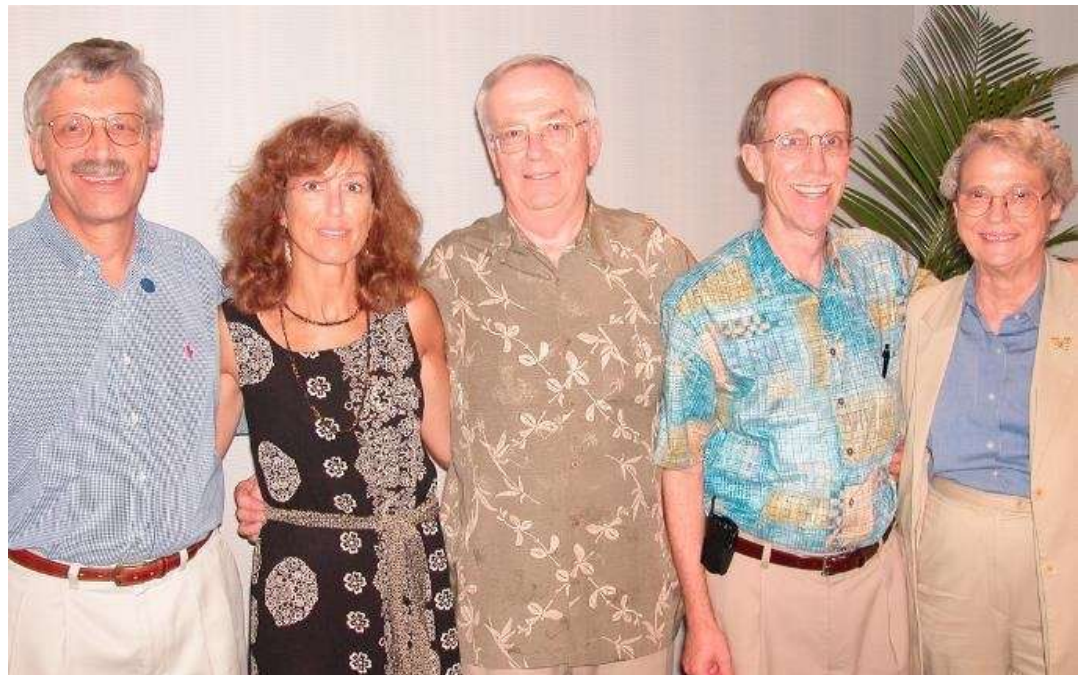
1993 – Members Vote for a Constitution

Initiated election of officers and BOD

Work begun on Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

Established operations, committees and meetings

1998 – Incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit



5 of AAPSE's First 6 Presidents - circa 2003

1993 – AAPSE's Original Constitution

“Purpose. The purpose of the Association shall be:

*to represent the interests of land-grant college
and university pesticide educators”*

1993 – AAPSE's Original Constitution

“BOD Responsibilities. The Board shall be responsible for interpreting the provisions of this Constitution and its By-Laws, entering into affiliation agreements, approving budgets, authorizing disbursements, formulating policies and advising the president on all matters concerning the Association.”

*The Member Elected Board has
Leadership Primacy in AAPSE*

Journal of Pesticide Safety Education **J P S E**

Planned from AAPSE's founding:

- To advance the quality of pesticide education
- A core member benefit for peer reviewed publishing
- Promote AAPSE

AAPSE Has Always Been
a Place of Our Own for
Mentoring, Friendships and Addressing
the Issues of the Day





2000-2002



USDA-Extension reduces the role and eventually eliminates the pesticide education National Program Leader

AAPSE initiates the concept of CTAG: A joint CES-SLA forum to address state C&T program guidance needs

AAPSE hosts a series of open discussions over 18 months soliciting ideas and input for the forum

CTAG is formed under the auspices of, and funded by, US EPA

Name Change

2002 – US EPA, USDA-Extension and the states change the name ‘Pesticide Applicator Training’ (PAT) to ‘**Pesticide Safety Education Program**’ (PSEP)

Reflecting PSEPs’ work has always been far more than certification and with a focus on decision-making education for pesticide users as opposed to prescriptive ‘training’

2000's More Demands - Less Funding

Era of significant reduction in support for PSEPs by US EPA, USDA, state government and Land-Grant universities

SLA's had similar issues and worked through AAPCO and ASPCRO

AAPSE conducted surveys and many other efforts to document and discuss the profound PSEP funding crisis across the nation

2006-2007 PRIA Funding for PSEPs

AAPSE President Joanne Kick-Raach, OH, led an educational campaign with stakeholders and the US Congress to direct PRIA funds to PSEPs

She networked with many organizations who successfully lobbied Congress on AAPSE's behalf

This success garnered new and widespread national recognition and respect for AAPSE



Benefits of AAPSE Membership



History

Dean Herzfeld

July 2022 Buffalo, NY



2010 - Present AAPSE-PSEP Sustainability

2010 – Dean Herzfeld, President, Andrew Thostenson, President-Elect and Carol Somody, Syngenta, arranged a national conference with Crop Life Foundation stakeholders

- Attendees were shocked at the imminent demise of the national system of pesticide safety education in more than 25 states and lack of US EPA and USDA leadership and support
- Committed to ensure PSEPs remain preeminent providers of pesticide safety education

2010 - Present AAPSE-PSEP Sustainability

The CropLife Foundation meeting led directly to:

- Formation of the ***National Stakeholder Team for PESP Funding***
- The massive grant program ***PSEP-Improvement and Modernization Initiative*** (PSEP-IMI)
- And in January 2017 the creation of the ***National Pesticide Safety Education Center*** (NPSEC)

A Membership Driven Organization

Importance for the
2021 Strategic Plan



AAPSE meeting 1995, PACT in San Diego

1993 - AAPSE Membership Categories

- ***Full Members***
- ***Voting Members***
- ***Associate Members*** for those not eligible for Full Membership
- ***Retired Members***
- ***International Members***
- ***Life Members***

All have been either eliminated or changed over the years

1993 - AAPSE Membership

Only individuals in Land- Grant Universities involved in PAT programs eligible as ***Full Members***

One person per state designated as ***Voting Member*** to vote on AAPSE's work (following AAPCO - states are functional membership unit)

Circa 1995/1996 – full voting privileges extended to all Full Members - leading to major change in how AAPSE functioned

1999 - AAPSE Membership Change

Extended Full Membership and voting privileges to local, state, federal and tribal governments employees involved in a US EPA approved certification program

- Need to provide a voice at the table for SLA certification staff as core PSEP partner
- Growing regulatory involvement in certification education
- Growing importance of exams for certification competency and program accountability

2014

AAPSE's first
independent
annual membership
meeting,
Harrisburg, PA



Bob Wulf nozzle demo in Harrisburg, PA

2015 - AAPSE Membership Change

All restrictions for AAPSE Full Membership and voting privileges removed.

Resulted in an influx of new members from pesticide registrant and commercial application companies, nonprofit sector and private trainers

Major change as a ***membership driven*** organization

New strategic plans in 2015 and 2021



A voice for Pesticide
Safety Education

