



A Quarterly Insight into the Environmental Services Division

# The ESD Review

## Topics in this edition >>>

- ☞ History of melons in the Yuma Valley.
- ☞ ESD announces list of approved pesticides for hemp.
- ☞ From the Case Files.
- ☞ Leafy greens growers required to treat irrigation water.
- ☞ AZDA-ESD to help establish Ag Program at Somerton Middle School.
- ☞ Becoming a Pest Control Advisor in AZ.
- ☞ Jack Peterson recognized by AzCPA for 25 years of service with AZDA.
- ☞ Basic description of some ESD inspections in Arizona.



## Melons, melons and more melons!!



*"A number of varieties of cantaloupes and watermelons have been grown in the Yuma Valley for over 85 years".*

By: Yuma ESD Staff

Yuma Valley farmers have been growing melons in this region since the 1930's. The varieties and quantities of what is grown has changed since then and so has the quality of the fruit, as it is now considered one of the best in the world's market.

It is said that both cantaloupe and watermelon date back to the second millennium B.C., and seeds of both species have been found at Twelfth Dynasty sites and in the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun, in ancient Egypt. Both cantaloupes and watermelons are grown today all over the world; southwestern USA being one of the most popular areas as the soil and weather are perfect for this crop.

Some of the original growers of this fruit in AZ, were Lee A. Consaul Co., Jack Brothers Co. and McDaniel and Sons, Inc., all based out of Somerton. Lee A. Consaul operated one of the largest packing operations in the region outside of Somerton, strategically located adjacent to the railway which made transport easy to customers in other parts of the USA.



Cantaloupe harvest near Somerton (circa 1940)



Watermelon harvest in the Yuma Valley (circa 1935)

Some of the larger growers of watermelons and cantaloupes today are SMT Farms, Pasquinelli Produce and Primetime Harvesting, to mention a few. During fiscal year 2016-2017 Arizona growers produced a total of 9,194,931 cartons of different varieties of cantaloupes and 4,056,847 cartons of watermelon. During fiscal year 2017-2018 they produced 9,239,563 cartons of cantaloupe and 4,308,629 cartons of watermelon. Most of this product was produced for export.



Jack Peterson recognized for 25 years of service with AZDA. (See page 4)



Growers required to treat irrigation water (See page 3)

# AZDA-ESD announces list of approved pesticides for use on hemp

By: Ernie Lugo, Yuma ESD

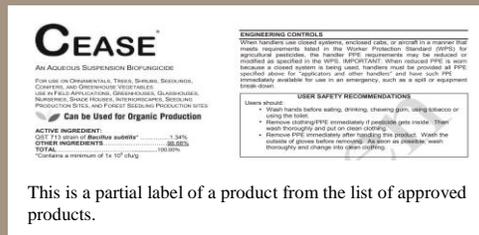
The Associate Director for ESD, Jack Peterson announced recently Arizona would be following in the footsteps of Colorado by using the list of pesticides approved for use on cannabis, developed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Assoc. Dir. Jack Peterson developed a publication where he delineates the requirements that must be followed and explains what licenses must be obtained prior to applying any of these products.

The document contains information including web links and contact information for inspectors tasked with overseeing the proper use of pesticides and the contact information for AZDA's Hemp Program.



Some of the most important provisions are that the pesticide product label expressly allows use on crops intended for human consumption. This will prevent the use of pesticides on hemp that although broadly labeled, are not tested or intended for use on food crops. Another is that pesticide's active ingredients must be allowed



This is a partial label of a product from the list of approved products.

by EPA for use on tobacco. This is important because some hemp products are intended to be burned and inhaled.

Most products on this list have been determined by the EPA through their risk assessment process to be of low toxicity.

ESD wishes to remind all growers who have applied for or a planning on applying for a license to grow hemp in Arizona that before you purchase or use any crop protection product on your crop, you must first apply for and obtain a grower permit (PGP). This is different than a hemp program grower license.

## From the ESD Case Files....

*In this section of our newsletter, we will share with you brief descriptions of cases and their outcomes.*

By: Alex Bellotti, Yuma ESD

**In January of 2019, ESD Inspector A conducted a routine Worker Protection Standard inspection on Harvesting Company B. During the inspection, Inspector A discovered that employees of Harvesting Company B received pesticide safety training specific to another state. When Inspector A contacted the Safety representative for Company B, he was informed that they were unaware they needed to provide Arizona-specific pesticide safety training. Inspector A provided information as to Arizona specific WPS regulations and recommended Arizona certified trainers who could train their crews as soon as possible. Crews were trained the next day and a supervisor from Harvesting Company B attended an AZDA Train The Trainer course and became certified in Arizona. Harvesting Company B was found responsible and fined for failing to train employees in Arizona Specific pesticide safety training. They have the right to appeal this decision.**

**In February of 2019, ESD Inspector C received a forwarded complaint alleging Homeowner D's dog presented symptoms of pesticide poisoning and eventually died. A bottle of gopher bait was discovered by Homeowner D inside Respondent E's property. A necropsy of the dead animal showed traces of the active ingredient in the gopher bait. An investigation by Inspector C revealed Respondent E used the gopher bait to control packrats in his back yard. Respondent E misused the gopher bait by neglecting to follow the use directions and did not properly place the poison pellets in a hole so they would remain out of reach from domestic animals such as dogs. He misused the gopher bait by using it to poison a pest for which it was not intended, in this case packrats. Respondent E was found responsible and cited for misuse of pesticide by failing to use it according to label directions and using it to control a pest for which it was not intended.**

# Growers required to treat irrigation water.

AZ LGMA approves food safety metrics requiring treatment of irrigation water.



By: Yuma ESD Staff

Recent changes to Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (AZ LGMA) program's food safety metrics will require growers of products covered by FSMA (FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act) regulations to treat irrigation water starting at 21 days prior to harvest. This is just another step taken by AZ LGMA to help protect consumers of FSMA covered products grown in Arizona.

At a recent training session in Yuma, Teresa Lopez who is the AZ LGMA Program Administrator told ESD that this is all part of annual continuous improvement of food safety metrics and that this year's focus is on water treatment.

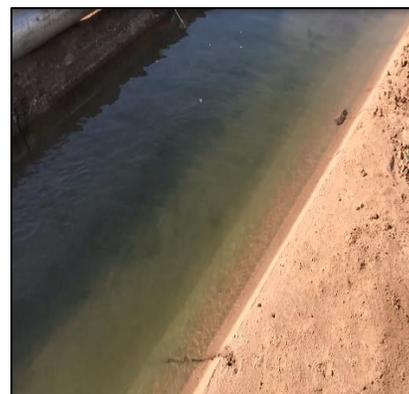
She said training on these new rules will be offered to all growers, shippers and packers to make sure everyone understands what needs to be done.

ESD's Associate Director, Jack Peterson said that water treatment is new to everyone and he encouraged those required to treat irrigation water to start learning and applying what is required and to do it in a cautious manner. He also reminded everyone that they must keep track of the application of products used to treat water as they are pesticides and their use must be documented. Documentation can be done on a Form 1080 or on an ESD approved application log.

The Environmental Services Division wants to remind everyone responsible for water treatment that products used for this purpose within the state of Arizona, must be registered with both the EPA and with AZDA. Also, make sure the product is labeled for that purpose.

To verify that a water treatment product is registered in Arizona, visit: <http://searchagriculture.az.gov/mastercontent/pestsearch.aspx>.

For more information regarding a food safety issue please call AZLGMA at (602) 542-0945. For information regarding authorized water treatment products you can call (602) 542-3421 (Phoenix) or (928) 344-7909 (Yuma).



## AZDA-ESD to help establish Ag Program at Somerton Middle School.



By: Yuma ESD Staff

The Somerton Middle School (SMS) will soon have an Ag Program modeled after a farm's growing operation. The idea is to bring a realistic farming experience to SMS students and to expose them to the many great career possibilities in the agriculture industry. This program will become part of the curriculum and will include lessons on industrial safety, food safety, soil preparation, irrigation methods, planting, crop care, such as weeding, thinning, pest management and of course harvesting.

The Arizona Department of Agriculture will be spearheading this program in conjunction with its main SMS sponsor, Nature Fresh Farms. NFF's General Manager, Mike Pasquinelli along with his team will provide preparation of the soil as well as technical assistance in the classroom and

the field. AZDA-ESD's Inspector Ernie Lugo and Santiago Aguirre of Booth Machinery will also assist Ms. Moreno, who is the SMS teacher in charge of the program, with both classroom instruction and when students are out in the field.

"We are excited to be able to offer this great program to our students and we appreciate the commitment of Nature Fresh Farms and our other partners, we look forward to its success", said Jose Moreno, Somerton Middle School's principal.

We will share the progress of this program in future editions of this newsletter. If you have any suggestions or wish to contribute in any manner please contact Insp. Ernie Lugo at (928) 318-9725, or by email: [elugo@azda.gov](mailto:elugo@azda.gov).



Back: Mike Pasquinelli, Ernie Lugo, Rene Garcia (NFF)  
Front: Santiago Aguirre and Lupe Camarena (NFF)



Future site of the Somerton Middle School Ag Lab

# Becoming a **Pest Control Advisor** in Arizona

By: Jack Peterson, Associate Director

The question is often asked, "How do I go about getting licensed if I want to be a PCA?" If you are in college, make sure and plan for it by taking the appropriate course work. In order to qualify to take the exams to be a PCA in Arizona, you must have 42 science based credits. And, if you do not have a degree along with the credits, you will also need two years of experience working with a licensed PCA.

To decide what courses you need and to look at the regulatory requirements, go to the following link which is the download forms link on our website: [www.agriculture.az.gov/download-forms](http://www.agriculture.az.gov/download-forms). Look for the PCA Education Verification Form. You will use this form when you apply for approval to test.

## How the process works:

1. Fill out the PCA Education Verification Form as you see things fitting and submit it to [jpeterson@azda.gov](mailto:jpeterson@azda.gov).
2. Submit along with the form, a copy of your transcripts.

3. Communicate as needed to get any loose ends wrapped up.

4. A testing letter will be sent to you once you meet the requirements.

5. Take the approval letter with you and go to one of the offices, Yuma, Phoenix or Tucson. For Yuma and Tucson please call and make an appointment.

6. Upon passing the exam an application will be given to you to fill out and return with payment for the license.

## Other good information to know.

Unofficial transcripts are encouraged until we are in agreement you have the needed credits. This saves you time and money if you have to take a course and then order another official transcript to be sent in. Official transcripts mean they come directly to me or they come in a sealed envelope from the college. Many colleges will now send official transcripts electronically. Many colleges will now send official transcripts electronically.



One of the courses that is most difficult for people to fulfill is the course that emphasizes IPM. Often times if the course title is not clear, additional information may be requested to show the emphasis. Make sure to provide an email address and phone number where you can be contacted during the day. The location and contact information for each of the testing locations is listed below.

**AZDA Headquarters**  
1688 W. Adams Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-542-3578

**AZDA-ESD Yuma**  
880 E. 24th Street  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
928-344-7909

**AZDA Tucson Office**  
400 W. Congress #124  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
520-770-3035

## Jack Peterson recognized by AzCPA for 25 years of service with AZDA.

By: AZDA-ESD Staff

During their annual conference held in Chandler this past May, the Arizona Crop Protection Association recognized Jack Peterson for his 25 years of service with the Arizona Department of Agriculture. AzCPA President, Andy Hampton presented Jack Peterson with a plaque and thanked him for his service to the agriculture industry, particularly the crop protection branch. Jack has assisted countless PCA's obtain their licenses as well as help the industry protect the crop protection branch by advocating for fair regulations, ensuring accessible continuing education and making sure, through his staff of inspectors, that products are sold, stored and applied in accordance with state and federal regulations, among other things.

Jack Peterson holds a Bachelor's of Science

Degree in Agricultural Engineering from North Dakota State University. He worked 10 years in North Dakota, as an engineer, an educator and a regulator prior to coming to Arizona in 1994, to begin his current job as the Associate Director of the Environmental Services Division.

During his tenure with AZDA Jack has served as interim director on multiple occasions. During those periods of time, he has represented our department with honor on a national level as part of committees and associations.

Jack is a hands-on administrator and leads by example often traveling throughout the state to personally teach at continuing education courses as well as running unusable pesticide collection events.



**Congratulations, Jack! We thank you for your leadership and your service to the Great State of Arizona.**

# Basic description of some ESD inspections in Arizona.

By: Arturo Aguirrebarrena, Yuma-ESD

In future editions of The ESD Review, we will be explaining each of the inspections and other activities conducted by ESD compliance inspectors.

In this edition we have listed some of those inspections along with a short description of each one.

All these inspections are considered routine; some are unannounced while others are pre-arranged, particularly those that involve records verification.

## Pesticide Use Inspection

A Pesticide Use inspection is an observation of an actual pesticide application or an inspection following an application. Use inspections include the many facets of pesticide use, including storing, handling, mixing, loading, and disposal. Pre- and post- application activities are appropriate for inspection. Use inspections are conducted to determine label comprehension and directions for use compliance by applicators. Use inspections can also detect non-compliant labels.

## Experimental Use Permit (EUP)

Similar to a use inspection, an experimental use permit (EUP) inspection is conducted to determine compliance with an experimental use permit and may be an actual observation of an application or an inspection of records. EUP's are issued to producers wishing to test a new or modified product prior to registering it.



An ESD Inspector observes the mixing and loading of a pesticide during a Pesticide Use Inspection near Somerton.



An ESD Inspector monitors the application of a product that is being tested by a producer during an EUP inspection.



A photo taken by an ESD Inspector of a disinfecting product during a Marketplace Inspection in Avondale.

## Certified Applicator Inspection (PUP/PUC/PUG)

The purpose of the certified applicator inspection is to determine if the applicator is properly certified and/or licensed and whether the required records are being maintained. Additionally, to the extent it is possible through a record review, the inspector will determine whether the applicator is applying pesticides only in those areas for which certification has been issued; and whether the records indicate that all applications have been made in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. During this inspection the pesticide storage area is also inspected.

## Restricted Use Pesticide Inspections

This type of inspection is conducted on-site at dealers who sell restricted-use pesticides. The purpose of the inspection is to determine if: (1) the dealer is properly licensed and maintaining the required records and (2) restricted-use pesticides are being sold only to certified applicators by reviewing the dealer's records.

## Marketplace Inspections

A marketplace inspection is conducted at the retail, wholesale, or user level for the purpose of determining product registration status, proper storage and display, any labelling violations, any product decomposition, and for collecting official samples. When samples are collected they are delivered to the AZ State Ag Lab who performs analysis to verify that what they are claiming on their label is what the consumer is receiving.

# ESD 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter's Photo Gallery



A supervisor and crew leader during a WPS inspection.



Dir. Killian addressing the community in Yuma during an AZDA Food Access Workshop.



New WPS trainers practicing their training skills.



Proper respirator use training



Pesticide Safety training



Inspectors Bellotti & Aguirrebarrena during a worker safety presentation



Jack Peterson addressing the AzCPA conference

