



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW TASK FORCE REVIEWS PESTICIDE FUTURE IN ARIZONA

The Department of Agriculture is launching a new task force to look at the laws surrounding pesticide use and regulations for professionals. Lawmakers last session decided it was time to take a serious look at how the state governs pesticide use. The legislation calls for the study and temporarily moves the Office of Pesticide Management (OPM) into the Department of Agriculture.

“We started planning after Governor Brewer signed the bill in April and everyone from OPM was moved in by mid-July,” said Jack Peterson, Associate Director for Agriculture. “The next step was to get the task force in place, so we can begin working through the process to create the recommendations by the end of 2012.”

Peterson will serve as the chairperson of the new task force which is made up of professionals from the agricultural plant pesticide industry, the structural (home and business) pesticide industry and two members of the Agriculture Department’s Advisory Committee.

“The pesticide community is ready to take this next step,” said Director Don Butler.

“We had good suggestions from several groups about who should help decide the future of pest control regulation in Arizona.”

The task force has until December 2012, to review current laws concerning structural pest management, organizational configurations for the ADA to oversee the industry, personnel and funding needs, and any changes to the laws that may be necessary.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Lindsley Evans – Elgin Tree Farm

Jimmy Fox – Evergreen Turf, Inc.

John Boelts – Boelts Farms, LLC

Dave Burns – Burns Pest Elimination

Ken Fredrick – Conquistador Pest & Termite, Inc.

Dr. Kirk Smith – Maricopa County Vector Control Supervisor

[Will Rousseau](#) – Rousseau Farms

[Phil Hemminghaus](#) – Golf Ventures West