

**Outstanding Specialist Award**Dr. Wayne Buhler supports the Pesticide Safety Education Program for Extension all across the state, in each county center. Pesticide Safety is necessary in order to insure a safe product from NC’s agriculture production, safe application in our homes and public landscapes, and to protect those that apply our crop protection materials. There are several approaches to his program support.

# First, he develops through working with other specialists and agents, the curriculum materials for the regional Pesticide Applicator Schools. These schools consist of 1 ½ days of training for individuals desiring to become licensed applicators, whether private, commercial, or public operators, in 11 different specialty categories. While the school training is not required, attendance greatly increases the passing rate for the exams to be certified.

# Second, Dr. Buhler develops the Private Recertification (Safety) Curriculum materials that private applicators must attend every 3 years to meet the two hour requirement to maintain their certification. Again, he works with specialists and agents to develop these materials, providing agents the opportunity to participate in a state wide program. This series of presentations reaches 13,708 private applicators every 3 years.

# Third, Dr. Buhler provides assistance on request in ongoing recertification programs to individual agents. Each commercial/public operator must obtain these recertification credits to maintain their certification.

# Fourth, he frequently communicates with agents across the state on current happenings in the pesticide and crop protection industry. This communication helps to keep NC CES Agents up to date on these issues and able to assist our total agricultural industry.

He has a wonderful ability to take complex information and make it understandable and develop hands on types of training programs for agents to use to train our producers. Wayne provides frequent emails updating agents on changes in pesticide laws and regulations, along with appropriate interpretations. The Pesticide Safety Education program reaches over 30,000 certified pesticide applicators. His programs delivered through the county agents help insure a safe food supply and protect the environment.