

## Northeastern IPM Center Partnership Grants Program

**Title:** Pocket Pesticide Calibration Guide

**Type:** Regional Publications

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**Team members:** Glen Koehler and Donald Barry, same address as above.

**State(s) involved:** Maine was the lead state with input from the remaining Northeastern states.

**Funding Years:** 2004-2005

**Funding amount:** \$9,242

**Summary:** Human error is arguably the most common source of pesticide related accidents. A lack of knowledge involving common conversion factors can cause mistakes in the field. These errors cause improperly calibrated application equipment, and improperly mixed materials.

The Pocket Pesticide Calibration Guide (PPCG) has long been a useful resource for pesticide applicators throughout the northeast. The PPCG was first published in the late 60's and was a useful and concise on site guide for pesticide applicators in all fields. The Northeast Pesticide Safety Educators and Coordinators (NEPSEC) performed a survey on the usefulness of the PPCG publication. The positive responses from applicators combined with the continuing stream of requests for the guide show the need for a new revised printing. Furthermore, many of the examples in the PPCG involve chemicals such as DDT that have been taken off the market. The result is a need to update the examples and to revise the format.

The objective is to revise the PPCG in order to remove outdated examples, and to reformat it for better accessibility. The publication will be revised using information from northeast land grant universities, revisions from NEPSEC and other sources with current information.

The opportunity available is to create an updated guide for northeastern pesticide applicators. The proper calibration of equipment and the proper mixing of materials in order to reduce on site pesticide related human injury, crop injury, reduce costs, and reduce the improper release of pesticide into the environment is the goal.

To this end, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension was funded to revise and update a new version of the PPCG. James Dill, Glen Koehler and Don Barry took on this task with the help of several other individuals from around the Northeast.

**Objectives:**

1. To update and edit the Pocket Pesticide Calibration Guide.
2. To print twelve thousand (12,000) copies of the Pocket Pesticide Calibration Guide for distribution throughout the Northeast.

Each objective was met. The only modification made was to print 13,000 copies of the finished product, instead of 12,000.

**Results:** 1) The PPCG has been published and 1000 copies supplied to each Northeast state. The PPCG can be found in PDF format at [pronewengland.org](http://pronewengland.org). 2) Each Northeastern state has received 1000 copies of the guide. They have been distributed at various venues including pesticide applicator education programs and as a reward for filling out surveys for the development of crop profiles.

**Impacts:**

- 1) Each state in the Northeast each received 1000 copies except Massachusetts which ordered an extra 2000 copies and Maryland which ordered an extra 1000 copies. They were sent to the state network project leader in each state.
- 2) At this time, it is unknown what impact this publication may have on the adoption of IPM practices.
- 3) This publication may result in the proper calibration of pesticide application equipment, therefore, increasing the efficacy of pesticides when used in IPM or conventional spray programs.