

An Abstract

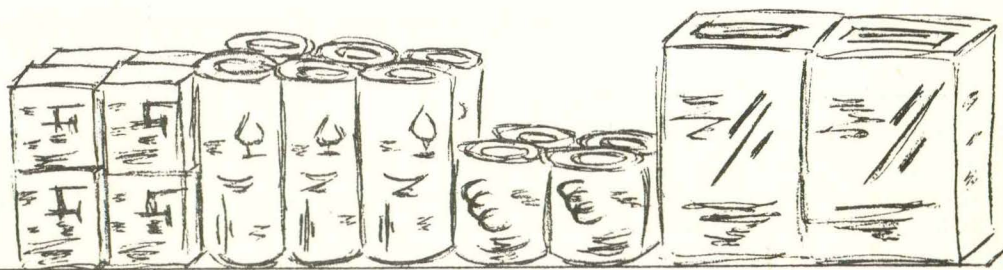
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EMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OF PESTICIDES



A Model Program



Prepared by
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AN ABSTRACT OF
EMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS IN
THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OF PESTICIDES
A Model Program

Prepared for:

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Mr. Robert H. Lounsberry, Secretary
Des Moines, Iowa

Under the Auspices of:

OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND MANPOWER PLANNING
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Mr. John Ropes, Project Officer
Washington, D.C.

Prepared by:

NATIONAL FIELD RESEARCH CENTER, INC.
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March 1976



The uniqueness of the pesticide project and the interagency cooperation necessary to the implementation of the project required several pre-seminar planning sessions. Involved in this planning session were the following persons: (left to right) Dr. Darold E. Albright, President, National Field Research Center, Inc.; Glenn L. Northup, National Project Director, Senior Community Service Aides Project, NRTA/AARP, Washington, D.C.; John L. Coakley, Jr., Chief, Manpower Development Branch of Air and Water Programs, Region VII, EPA, Kansas City, Mo.; Dr. Richard A. Feller, Project Director, National Field Research Center, Inc.; Leona I. Peterson, Executive Director, Iowa Commission on the Aging; William Holmberg, Acting Director, Pesticides Operations Division, U.S. EPA, Washington, D.C.; and Robert H. Lounsberry, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.



William Holmberg, Acting Director, Pesticides Operations Division, U.S. EPA, Washington, D.C., and Robert H. Lounsberry, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture discuss the necessity of stressing both the National and State Pesticide Priorities during the training seminars.



J. D. (Bud) Hook, Administrative Assistant of the Secretary of Agriculture, Myron Van Cleave, Supervisor, Iowa Department of Agriculture, Pesticides Division and Robert H. Lounsberry, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture discuss the role of the Department of Agriculture in the Pesticide Project.



Robert H. Gilbert (far right), Iowa State Project Director, NRTA/AARP Senior Community Employment Aides Project fielding questions from the Pesticide inventory specialists concerning proper procedures for completion of employee records.

INTRODUCTION

The Iowa inventory of banned, obsolete, and non-registered pesticides (B.O.N.) was designed to supplement the efforts of the Iowa Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Quality in carrying out the mandates of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act (FEPCA). The project was unusual in that it involved pooling the resources of twenty-eight federal, state and local agencies, and was conducted by use of a unique manpower resource -- our unemployed older workers.

The two main goals of the pesticide project were:

- 1) to conduct statewide inventories of certain potentially hazardous pesticides in retail outlets and empty pesticide containers on farms; and
- 2) to demonstrate the potential of an inter-agency methodology and an older worker manpower resource which could be utilized by other agencies to resolve pressing manpower needs.

The original impetus for this type of project came from John Ropes, Project Officer, Office of Education and Manpower Planning at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and William Holmberg, Director of the Pesticides Operation Division of EPA. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Robert H. Lounsberry supported the project concept in the interest of fulfilling legislative mandates. Glenn L. Northup, National Director of Senior Community Service Aides Project for the National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons (NRTA/AARP) and Leona I. Peterson, Executive Director of the Iowa Commission on the Aging agreed to cooperate in the recruitment and employment of older Iowans as the needed manpower resource.

In general, funding and technical guidance came from environmental agencies, recruitment and employment from agencies interested in older persons, supervision and inventory guidance from agriculture agencies, training facilities from community colleges, and research and coordinating activities from a consulting firm.¹

Seventy-two older workers were employed as Agriculture Liaison Aides on a half-time basis for six months to conduct the inventories in their home or nearby counties. After initial training and a short time in the field, they were recalled for a Follow-up Training Seminar for further information and to correct minor problems which had arisen, e.g., common errors in form reporting and unusual inventory situations. The project was conducted from January through June of 1975.

PROJECT FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

As the first extensive field inventory of the defined problem, the project made a significant contribution to the State Lead Agency by supplementing its efforts to assess and quantify the pesticide disposal problem. Such information is vital to governmental agencies in developing strategies to meet their legislative mandates.

In brief the pesticide inventory revealed the following:

- 1) More than 2,400 retail outlets in 68 of Iowa's 99 counties were inventoried. This represents an average of 36 outlets/county.
- 2) Nearly 58% of the retail outlets inventoried had B.O.N. products on hand.

¹National Field Research Center, Inc. was contracted in the early concept stages of the project to assist in developing project methodology, inter-agency linkages and training programs and to perform many coordinating, monitoring and research activities.

- 3) The inventory located and identified nearly 90,000 pounds of B.O.N. products, an average of 36 pounds/outlet.
- 4) More than 22,000 B.O.N. product containers, or 9 containers/outlet, were located.
- 5) Nearly 9,000 pounds of banned products, an average of 5 pounds/outlet, were located.
- 6) One of every five of the farms inventoried (3680) had empty pesticide containers, an average of 26 containers/farm. More than 18,000 containers were found on 714 farms and 83% were cans.
- 7) Many retailers and farmers were unsure about how to dispose of B.O.N. products or containers, and were unaware of pesticide registration and application certification regulations.

Extrapolations from the data gathered in the project suggest the presence of an estimated 65 tons of banned, obsolete and non-registered pesticides in Iowa retail outlets. This amounts to an average of 431 pounds of B.O.N. products per 10,000 population. Another extrapolation suggests an estimated 600,000 empty pesticide containers may be on Iowa farms.

As a result of this project, the Iowa Department of Agriculture was able to develop necessary "state of the art" information and to underscore its contention that field staffing levels were too limited and staff responsibilities too broad to effectively monitor pesticide activities. Further, because the inventory revealed a considerable number of unregistered products, a need by the Department of Agriculture to refine its procedures for issuing "stop sale" orders emerged. Consequently regulatory procedures were updated and accelerated with greater cost efficiency resulting.

Changes and adjustments will doubtless be necessary if the project is to be replicated in other states or regions, but it is certain that Iowa's program has demonstrated the feasibility and practicality of inter-agency cooperation as well as the value of using older persons as a resource to supplement service program efforts.

The project provided a program design and an information delivery system which was sufficiently flexible and efficient that:

- 1) it could be expanded to include other more more comprehensive activities; and
- 2) it could serve as a model for replication in other programs and locations.

This and similar projects emerge as having a special, though often overlooked, human ramification which must be considered invaluable in terms of our responsibility to the older population. It is certain that the project provided work activity for a number of low-income, elderly people. More than that, however, it demonstrated to prospective employers, the public, the participants and their peers that advancing age or retirement does not exclude an individual from productive activity. In an era when maximum and efficient use of all resources has become a survival technique, the wisdom and experience of the elderly population cannot be overlooked.

For further information about the project, contact:

NATIONAL FIELD RESEARCH CENTER, INC.

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TABLE I
ANALYSIS OF EMPLOYEE AGE

Total Employees	55-59 Years of Age	60-69 Years of Age	70-79 Years of Age	80 Years of Age or Older	Average Employee Age
72	20	35	15	2	64.7

TABLE II
ANALYSIS OF INVENTORY MILEAGE

Total Retail Sites Inventoried	Total Mileage Driven	Average Mileage Between Sites	Total Mileage Reimbursed
2,453	105,000	6.11	\$12,500.00

TABLE III
RETAIL OUTLETS INVENTORIED
AND WITH B.O.N. PRODUCTS

Outlets Inventoried	Outlets with B.O.N. Products	Percentage of Outlets with B.O.N.
2,453	1,423	58

TABLE IV
COUNTY TOTALS PER RETAIL OUTLET

<u>B.O.N. Products</u>		<u>B.O.N. Containers</u>		<u>Banned Products</u>	
Total lbs.	Average lbs.	Total No.	Average	Pounds	Average
88,896	36.2	22,179	9.0	8,899	3.6

TABLE V
POUNDS OF B.O.N. AND BANNED
PRODUCTS PER 10,000 POPULATION

POPULATION	BANNED PRODUCTS	B.O.N. PRODUCTS
2,064,820	43.1	430.1

TABLE VI
FARMS INVENTORIED WITH PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

Farms Inventoried	Number of Farms with Containers	Percentage of Farms with Containers	Number of Containers Located	Containers Per Farm (Average)
3,680	714	19	18,313	5.0

LOCAL, STATE, REGIONAL AND FEDERAL
AGENCIES COOPERATIVELY INVOLVED
WITH PROJECT

Iowa Department of Agriculture	Iowa Senior Community Service Aides Project
Iowa Department of Environmental Quality	National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons
Region VII, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	United States Environmental Protection Agency
Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Services	Iowa Department of Social Services
Iowa State Employment Security Commission	Iowa Area Agencies on Aging:
Iowa Office for Planning and Programming	North Central Iowa Area Agency on Aging
Office of Economic Opportunities	Area IV Agency on Aging
Iowa Community Colleges:	Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging
Kirkwood Community College	Area IX Agency on Aging
North Iowa Area Community College	Area X Agency on Aging
Indian Hills Community College	Area XI Agency on Aging
Western Iowa Technical Community College	Area XIII Agency on Aging
Iowa Western Community College	Area XIV Agency on Aging
Des Moines Area Community College	Area XV Agency on Aging
Southwestern Community College	National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons
Iowa Commission on the Aging	

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