

# The Office of Pesticide Information and Coordination (OPIC): Your Partner for Pesticide Safety and Compliance

The role of Statewide Pesticide Coordinator was established in 1962. This role expanded to become the Office of Pesticide Information and Coordination (OPIC) in 1976. OPIC has had five Coordinators in its 60 years of service and assists staff from UC ANR, the Agriculture Experiment Station (AES), and all 10 UC campuses.

## Responsibilities

OPIC gives advice to UC personnel about pesticide matters and to state agencies about UC pesticide use.

OPIC reviews UC ANR publications offering research-based guidelines for pesticide use, including the Pest Management Guidelines (PMGs). OPIC checks manuscripts for agreement with laws, regulations, and EPA registration.

OPIC offers yearly trainings to UC employees working with experimental pesticides and upkeep the document detailing how researchers can use them.

## Impacts



### UC researchers do not need Experimental Use Permits from the state to test pesticides

In the early 70's, the Statewide Pesticide Coordinator worked with UC researchers and the state to create a university exemption from the Experimental Use Permits that the state made mandatory for pesticide researchers. The exemption states that the UC system must have a pesticide policy; this policy is the subject of OPIC's trainings.



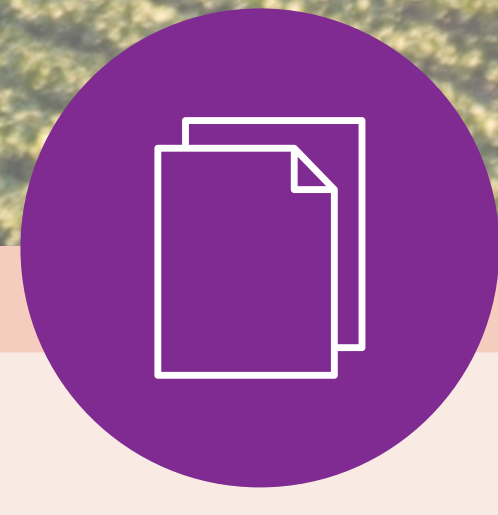
### 205 UC employees attended the pesticide policy training in 2022

OPIC has done both Zoom and in-person trainings and offers 3 Continuing Education Units in Laws and Regulations for the training.



### Over 25 documented FAQs asked by researchers on OPIC's website

Researchers have asked about storing pesticides in food containers, additional permit requirements for some experimental uses, and other questions like these.



### OPIC reviewed 147 manuscripts over the past 5 years

These documents included Pest Management Guidelines, Pest Notes, handbooks, and research publications.



### No reports of UC researchers illegally using pesticides in >18 years

This includes regulations like the requirement to destroy crops treated with a pesticide that has no established tolerance.



### The Pest Management Guidelines receive over 33,000 page views/day

The Pest Management Guidelines can be found at [ipm.ucanr.edu/agriculture/](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/agriculture/).