2012 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit

Resolution on Reciprocity on State Pesticide Certification

Whereas,   the State Ag and Rural Leaders, (SARL) is comprised of agriculture and rural leaders of state and provincial legislative bodies from the US and Canada; and

Whereas,   as local leaders these members have a unique understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing rural communities and businesses across both countries; and

Whereas,   in most states, farm operators are required to have a private pesticide license to purchase, apply or supervise application of a restricted or limited use pesticide with the intent of producing a commodity; and

Whereas,   private license holders include farmers, greenhouse operators, florists, orchardists, Christmas tree growers and foresters and many of these farmers operate across state lines; and

Whereas,   to obtain a private license, farmers must pass written examinations, and then are generally licensed for 2-5 years; and

Whereas,   in most states, farmers are also required to take continuing education training on pesticides and professional out of state sessions are generally accepted; and

Whereas,   farmers operating in more than one state are currently required to hold a pesticide applicator's license in each state, often requiring them to take multiple, very similar tests; and

Whereas,   any opportunity to reduce the regulatory burden on farmers should be considered and explored; now therefore be it

Resolved,   that the state legislatures, Departments of Agriculture, State University Extension personnel and pesticide licensing agencies be encouraged to collaborate to achieve said reciprocity in private operator pesticide licensing procedures; and be it further

Resolved,   that a copy of this resolution be sent to the governors, agriculture commissioners and secretaries, deans of land grant colleges and legislative leaders.

Approved by members of State Agriculture and Rural Leaders
Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit
January 8, 2012 - Arlington, Virginia