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DATE: January 15, 2023
TO: Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
Megan Patterson, Director of the Board of Pesticides Control
FROM: Samantha Warren, UMS Director of Government & Community Relations
samantha.warren@maine.edu / (207) 632-0389
RE: **Report on Use of Funds Provided for Pesticide Safety Education**

For more than three decades, University of Maine Cooperative Extension has provided science-based pesticides safety education and outreach through a memorandum of understanding with the Board of Pesticides Control (BPC). Maine's pesticides safety program is recognized as a national leader, in part because of this long-standing partnership that BPC underwrites with an annual \$65,000 grant from pesticide registration fees to UMaine Extension.

In 2019, Public Law 2019, Chapter 243 was enacted to clarify this funding arrangement and create flexibility to allow for future expansion of funding and scope of work. As part of our continued commitment to public accountability and transparency, the University of Maine System suggested an annual reporting requirement be included in the new law through which we would overview to for the Committee and BPC the funded activities undertaken in the previous year. This serves as that report for 2022.

Supported by the \$65,000 in BPC funding and also university resources, UMaine Extension employs a Pesticide Safety Expert as part of its comprehensive Pest Management Unit. This professional writes and regularly updates the Maine-specific pesticide application manuals that instruct those seeking to become licensed how to appropriately apply pesticides in a way that minimizes impacts to public and environmental health while preserving the quality and quantity of the crop being treated. In 2022, several applicator training manuals were developed or revised, including those pertaining to outdoor ornamentals, biting flies and other arthropods, and structural general pest control, with revisions and production of other manuals and training videos currently in progress. Additionally, the pesticide applicator logbook was edited and reprinted.

The BPC-supported pesticide safety expert also delivered multiple in-person and virtual trainings, including sessions at the Agricultural Trades Show in Augusta that provided credit opportunities for more than 1,400 attendees and online that in total, had 446 participants. Topics included, but were not limited to, integrated pest management (known as IPM), safety, labeling, forestry and rights-of-way, greenhouse best practices, and worker protection standards.

The Pesticide Safety Expert also maintains the well-trafficked pesticides safety education pages on UMaine Extension's website at extension.umaine.edu/ipm/pesticide-safety, reviews quizzes and reports scores to BPC, attends state and regional meetings, and regularly responds to requests from individuals, businesses and municipalities related to pesticide safety, regulations, licensing and recertification. All of this activity is possible thanks to our ongoing partnership with BPC and the flexibility allowed by P.L. 2019, Chapter 243.

UMS and its land grant, UMaine, are proud of the ways the Pest Management Unit and Cooperative Extension bring university research and technical assistance to tens of thousands of Maine homes, businesses, farms and communities each year. We look forward to continued collaboration with BPC and this Committee in 2023.