



Joint News Release

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ResponsibleAg Auditor Course Recognized by BEAC

Owensboro, Kentucky -- The Asmark Institute announced today the ResponsibleAg Auditor Training Course has received recognition from the Board of Environmental, Health and Safety Auditor Certifications (BEAC). The course is designed specifically for auditors who intend to perform facility assessments under the ResponsibleAg Certification Program. BEAC's recognition of the course is based on a comprehensive evaluation of course content, training materials, course environment and instructor qualifications. The ResponsibleAg Auditor Training Course joins other training programs recognized by BEAC such as the American Chemistry Council's Responsible Care®, SOCMA's ChemStewards and The Auditing Roundtable courses.

Brian Miller, CPEA and Compliance Assurance Specialist with Agrium and Dr. Fred Whitford, Coordinator of Purdue University Pesticide Programs, are the lead instructors for the course. Together they bring fifty years of EHS experience backed by more than seventy years of experience in agriculture. "We couldn't be more pleased than to be working with instructors of this caliber," said Billy Pirkle, Chairman of ResponsibleAg. "They are each nationally recognized for their work within, and on behalf of the agricultural industry."

At the heart of the ResponsibleAg initiative is the goal of providing accurate and credible assessments consistently across the entire group of carefully trained and credentialed ResponsibleAg auditors. Each auditor must successfully complete this course before applying for credentials under the ResponsibleAg Certification Program.

The course developed for ResponsibleAg is a one-of-a-kind course that includes a combination of classroom lectures, computer lab, role-play scenarios, problem-solving sessions and hands-on exercises. Students participate in numerous simulations staged at a retired agrichemical facility covering three acres. The facility is essentially one huge "prop" designed to apply and test the information presented during the week.

Three courses have been completed with nine more scheduled for 2015. The next course is scheduled for February 10-13th.

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About BEAC

The Board of Environmental, Health and Safety Auditor Certifications (BEAC) is an independent, nonprofit corporation established in 1997 to issue professional certifications relating to environmental, health and safety auditing and other scientific fields. BEAC was originally created as a joint venture between The Institute of Internal Auditors and the Auditing Roundtable. For more information, go to www.beac.org.

About ResponsibleAg

ResponsibleAg is an independent, nonprofit organization founded in 2014 to promote the safe storage and handling of fertilizers and to educate persons in the fertilizer distribution chain with respect to safety standards and governmental regulations. Utilizing third-party audits, ResponsibleAg will educate fertilizer storage and handling facilities to achieve and maintain compliance with federal environmental, health, safety and security laws and regulations. ResponsibleAg works closely with the Asmark Institute and maintains an office in Owensboro, KY. For more information, go to www.responsibleag.org.

About the Asmark Institute

Asmark Institute, Inc. is a national resource center serving the retail agricultural industry, consisting of retail agribusinesses, state and national trade associations, educational institutions and government agencies. The Institute provides compliance materials and services, develops common sense solutions to new regulatory requirements, assists the government in its mission of protecting life, property and the environment, monitors enforcement activity for uniformity, supports industry efforts to arrive at fair and reasonable regulation and provides a wealth of unique resources to give wings to the ideas designed to help lift the retail agricultural industry. The Institute is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides a forum for organizations to effectively collaborate on issues for the benefit of the retail agricultural industry. For more information, go to www.asmark.org.

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