

NEWS RELEASE

Molly Alexi, NC Cooperative Extension Director

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Successful Household Hazardous Waste, Pesticides, and Electronics Recycling and Collection Day

Many household products are potentially hazardous to our environment if disposed of improperly. Particularly vulnerable is our water supply, which can be easily polluted. Plants, animals and humans can all be affected by the unsafe and careless disposal of everyday chemicals from our homes. To reduce these dangers, Montgomery County Government, NC Cooperative Extension Montgomery County Center, and NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services worked together to provide a successful Collection Day at the Agriculture Center this past Saturday. During the five-hour event, we collected 786 pounds of pesticides. Among the many pesticides we collected from farmers and homeowners, were toxaphene, carbaryl, and DDT. We also collected 3000 pounds of paint; 50 pounds of aerosols, sodium hydrosulfite, 500 pounds of environmentally hazardous substance, mercury, batteries, light bulbs; 2400 pounds of flammable liquids, twelve 55 gallon barrels of used oil, and approximately 10,000 pounds of recycled electronics. This service provided a good method to dispose of unwanted materials in an environmentally safe way so they do not get dumped in our landfills.

In 1976, the North Carolina Pesticide Board adopted regulations governing the disposal of pesticides. These regulations make it illegal in North Carolina to dispose of hazardous waste (which includes pesticides) in sanitary landfills. As a result of this dilemma, the Department created the Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program in 1980 through appropriations from the North Carolina General Assembly.

Since its inception, the Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program has properly collected and disposed of nearly 2 million pounds of pesticides from North Carolina. With the partnership of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, the Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program supervises the collection and disposal of about 140,000 pounds of pesticide waste each year.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Household Hazardous Waste and Pesticide Disposal and Electronics Recycling Event. It was a successful day.