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### Pesticide Applicator: Training and Certification

Cooperative Extension South Dakota State University

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# **Pesticide Applicator**

## Training and Certification

Cooperative Extension Service  
South Dakota State University, Brookings  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
and  
South Dakota  
Department of Agriculture, Pierre

In 1972 Congress amended the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and granted authority to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for implementation of the law.

Three key provisions that will affect pesticide users are:

1. EPA must classify all pesticide products as either "general use" or "restricted use" pesticides.
2. "Restricted use" pesticides may be used only by or under direct supervision of certified applicators, or under such other regulatory restrictions as EPA may require.
3. Applicators must be certified as private or commercial. (The Federal deadline for certification is October 21, 1977.)

The result of these provisions is a certification program that ensures applicators are competent to handle restricted use pesticides without danger to themselves, the public, or the environment. Certification programs will also allow continued use of certain products that might otherwise have to be withdrawn from the market because of potential danger to people or the environment—if these chemicals were to be used by the general public.

## Private Applicator

**Q.—What Is a Certified Private Applicator?**

A.—A private applicator is, in most cases, a farmer, rancher, orchardist, or other applicator who uses or supervises the use of restricted use pesticide products to produce an agricultural commodity on property he or his employer owns or rents. A certified private applicator may also apply pesticides on another person's property if he receives no pay other than the trading of personal services between producers of agricultural commodities.

**Q.—What requirements must be met for certification?**

A.—A private applicator must demonstrate practical knowledge in:

1. Recognizing common pests and pest damage.

2. Reading and understanding labels and labeling information.
3. Applying pesticides in accordance with label instructions and warnings.
4. Recognizing local environmental situations.
5. Recognizing poisoning symptoms and knowing what to do in case of an accident.

**Q.—Can the County Extension Agent certify a private applicator?**

A.—No. The County Extension Agent will only be responsible for training private applicators.

**Q.—Who will certify private applicators?**

A.—South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Pierre, South Dakota 57501.

**Q.—Where will training sessions be held?**

A.—County-wide and community meetings will be held at the discretion of the County Extension Agent.

**Q.—How will practical knowledge be determined?**

A.—By demonstrating competence in the safe and proper use of pesticides.

**Q.—Will a private applicator have to be certified before buying restricted use pesticides?**

A.—Yes; proof of certification must be presented at time of purchase.

**Q.—Will a fee be charged for certification?**

A.—No.

**Q.—Will any study materials be provided for private applicators?**

A.—Yes. Training material will be available through County Extension Agent offices.

**Q.—How many hours of training will be provided a private applicator?**

A.—Approximately 4 hours of training will be provided at each county-wide or community meeting.

**Q.—When will training and certification programs begin?**

A.—July 1976.

## Home Owners, Home Gardeners

**Q.—Will home gardeners, home owners, and the general public have to be certified to use pesticides?**

A.—No. Pesticides classified for "general use" may be applied without further restrictions than those specified on the label.

**Q.—How can "general use" pesticides be identified?**

A.—The classification "general" or "restricted" will be displayed on the pesticide label after October 1977.

## Commercial Applicator

**Q.—What is a commercial applicator?**

A.—A commercial applicator is anyone who applies or supervises the application of pesticides for any purpose or on any property other than as provided by the definition of "private applicator."

**Q.—How will a commercial applicator become certified?**

A.—Competence in the use of pesticides will be determined by written examinations in each of two areas. These areas include general standards applying to all categories and additional standards specifically identified for each category or subcategory in which an applicator is to be classified.

**Q.—What practical knowledge must be demonstrated as general standards for all categories?**

A.—Practical knowledge of the principles and practices of pest control and safe use of pesticides will be demonstrated through competency in:

1. Label and labeling comprehension.
2. Safety.
3. Environment.
4. Pest recognition, damage, biology.
5. Pesticides.

6. Pesticide application equipment.
7. Application techniques.
8. Laws and regulations.

**Q.—What are specific standards?**

- A.—Specific standards will be demonstrated in one or more categories. These categories include:
1. Agricultural Animal Pest Control.
  2. Agricultural Plant Pest Control (Herbicide and Insecticide).
  3. Aquatic Pest Control.
  4. Demonstration Pest Control.
  5. Ornamental and Turf Pest Control.
  6. Public Health Pest Control.
  7. Regulatory Pest Control.
  8. Right-of-Way Pest Control.
  9. Rodent/Predator/Bird Pest Control.
  10. Seed Treatment Pest Control.
  11. Structural Pest Control.
  12. Forest Plant Pest Control.

**Q.—What materials are available for study before examinations?**

A.—Instructional materials will be available through County Extension Agent offices. This material will include a commercial core manual covering general standards and a study guide by category.

**Q.—What training and testing procedures are available for certification?**

- A.—Applicator may elect one of two options:
1. Examination following formal training.
  2. Examination following self-study.

**Q.—Will a commercial applicator be required to demonstrate competence in all categories?**

A.—No. Only those categories for which he desires certification.

**Q.—When will core manual and category training begin?**

A.—Core manual training started in January 1976. Category training will start in July 1976.

**Q.—What will be the length of time for core manual and category training sessions?**

A.—Core manual training can be completed in about 2-4 hours. Category training will require approximately 2-4 hours for each category selected.

**Q.—Where will training be offered?**

A.—Shortcourses will be held in locations to be announced.

**Q.—Who will be responsible for training?**

A.—Training will be by the Cooperative Extension Service, South Dakota State University.

**Q.—Who will be responsible for certification and licensing?**

A.—The State Department of Agriculture, Pierre.

**Q.—Is a fee charged for certification?**

A.—No charge for certification. However, a minimal charge will be made for study materials that are locally produced or purchased.

### Licensed Applicator License Fee

The annual fee for an applicator license is \$25.00. (Licensed applicator is an applicator who owns or manages a spraying business.) The fee should be submitted along with the application for a license to the State Department of Agriculture, Pierre, S. D., 57501. Certification must be maintained to be eligible for a license.

### Licensed Operator License Fee

The annual fee for a licensed operator is \$5.00. (Licensed operator is a sprayer who is hired by a licensed applicator.) The fee should be submitted along with application for a license to the State Department of Agriculture, Pierre, S. D. 57501. Certification must be maintained to be eligible for a license.

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