

PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION TRAINING

Provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act require training and certification of any individual applying restricted-use pesticides. In recent weeks applicators across the state have participated in annual Pesticide Re-certification Workshops. Co-sponsored by Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and USU Extension, these workshops provide valuable training for pesticide users. The last two workshops will be held mid December in northern Utah.

Commercial and non-commercial applicators that have never been certified are required to take an initial written exam that consists of the general and at least one category test. A score of 70 percent or above is required to pass each test. After an individual has been certified initially, UDAF officials are anxious to have applicators renew their license with CEU credits instead of retaking the written exams. There are sufficient opportunities each year to earn credits if applicators are paying attention.

Instruction for Cache County applicators will be given in the south-west conference rooms at BATC (1301 N 600 W) on Thursday, December 16. Individuals who are already certified will receive CEU credits for participating in the workshop. Individuals seeking their initial certification can take the examinations following classroom instruction. Another option is to schedule an appointment to take the exams at the Extension office at a later date. There is a renewal fee of \$65 for commercial applicators, and \$20 for Non-commercial applicators. All commercial applicators must have affiliation with an employer who has a current commercial pesticide application business license. Class will begin at 9 a.m. and go until 4 p.m.

Another session, December 17, will be offered to individuals who are not currently licensed in the Private applicator category. Classes begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. Qualified agricultural producers who attend this workshop and participate in the training activities can pay the \$20 fee and receive a Private Applicator license without having to pass a written examination. Please RSVP to the Extension office (752-6263) if you would like to participate in this training session.

Utah has three classifications of Pesticide Applicators:

1. Commercial - Any person who uses any pesticide for hire or compensation.
2. Non-Commercial - Any person working as an individual or an employee of a firm, entity, or government agency who uses or demonstrates the use of any restricted-use pesticide and who does not qualify as a private or commercial applicator.
3. Private - Any person or said persons employer who uses or supervises the use of any restricted-use pesticide for the purpose of producing any agricultural commodity on property owned or rented by employee or employer.

Additionally, applicators are classified into one or more categories based on application site and the type of work they perform. Common categories are plant, animal, vertebrate, aquatic, ornamental and turf.

Applicators whose licenses expires on December 31, 2010 have three options to re-certify: (1) Complete a general and category test(s) with a score

exceeding 70 percent, (2) Attend a re-certification workshop and pass a category test(s), or, (3) Obtain the required number of Continuing Education Units.(CEU's)

Commercial and non-commercial applicators must have accumulated a minimum of 24 CEU's to be exempt from taking the written exam. Private applicators must obtain 6 CEU's over a three-year period or take a written test. Applicators are required to keep documentation of all courses attended where CEU credits are earned. This documentation must be maintained by the applicator and turned in at the time of re-certification to receive credit for attendance at the CEU courses. Check with Mark Ashcroft, Compliance Specialist for UDAF, for answers to specific questions. Mark can be reached at 752-6263. He will also be an active participant at the training sessions.

The cautious use of pesticides is important to all of us. They are valuable when properly used, but dangerous if misused. This ongoing instruction is designed to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks.