

PSEP Fact Sheet:



Wyoming's Pesticide Applicator Certification Program

Jeff M. Edwards, *Pesticide
Applicator Training Coordinator*

Joe Hiller, *Former Assistant Director,
Agriculture and Natural Resources*

Mark Ferrell, *Former Extension
Pesticide Coordinator*

Andrea M. Lewis, *Former
Extension Publication Assistant*

Individuals who apply restricted-use pesticides must be certified to do so under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Wyoming Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1973. Amendments to FIFRA require that applicators be continually recertified. Training is conducted by University of Wyoming Extension. Licensing is conferred by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA), which enforces FIFRA and the state act in Wyoming.

What are the different applicator classifications?

A **private pesticide applicator** is an individual 16 years of age or older who is licensed to apply or supervise the application of restricted-use pesticides to his or her own property, either owned or leased, or who may apply restricted-use pesticides for other individuals on their properties, owned or leased, either for no charge, or as an exchange of services, **but not for pay**, in the production of an agricultural commodity. Applicator classification is not related to either the amount of pesticides applied or to the amount of acreage treated.

A **commercial pesticide applicator** in Wyoming is a person 16 years of age or older who applies or supervises the application of any pesticide by other individuals, on property other than his or her own, **for contract or hire**. Commercial applicators are certified in one or more categories and may use pesticides only in the category(s) for which they are certified.

Private applicator certification is valid for five years, and the license expires on April 30 of the appropriate year. At the end of your five-year block, another block begins, and you must be recertified again during this block. This continues as long as you are a pesticide applicator. If you don't recertify you will not be able to purchase or apply restricted-use pesticides. Your county UW Extension office has information about becoming certified or to obtain training materials. Additional information is available on the University of Wyoming Pesticide Safety Education Program Website <http://uwyoextension.org/psep/>

Commercial applicator certification is valid for three years, and the license expires on January 31 of the appropriate year. Contact your county UW Extension office for information about becoming certified, recertifications or to obtain training materials.

How do I become recertified?

Private applicators have three options for recertification: 1) attending an Wyoming Department of Agriculture approved training session, 2) completing a home-study workbook, or 3) passing a written examination. Most private applicators choose to attend the training session. Contact your county UW Extension office for information about becoming recertified.



Department of Plant Sciences
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Commercial applicators also have three options for recertification: 1) attending an approved training session (those individuals whose licenses expire will be sent a notification of the time and location of an approved training session), 2) passing the appropriate category examinations, or 3) obtaining 24 hours of certification hours within their respective three-year block of time.

Certification hours are obtained at training sessions and relevant meetings. The Wyoming Department of Agriculture will assign hours to each approved training course; one hour will be assigned for each contact hour of relevant training. Relevance will be determined by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

What topics are included in the training?

Private applicator training program requirements:

- A minimum of two hours of training are required to certify Wyoming private applicators. The training session format is as follows:
 1. A verbal review of the certification requirements for Wyoming private pesticide applicators. An excellent review can be found in the Wyoming Department of Agriculture pamphlet "Certification of Applicators Who Use Restricted Use Pesticides." This pamphlet is available from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.
 2. A verbal review of pesticide laws and regulations.
 3. Training on the use of pesticides including safety, worker protection, endangered species, handling, groundwater contamination, misuse, public concerns, and disposal.
 4. Training on proper use of pesticide equipment and calibration.

The balance of the training session is comprised of presentations chosen by the instructor. Electives may include such items as weed, insect, or disease control and could include presentations by specialists in the pesticide business such as extension personnel, weed and pest supervisors, or others involved with pesticides.

Commercial Applicator Training Program

Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training Short Course:

This is a multi-day course with training in pesticide labels and terminology, pesticide and farm worker safety, pesticide laws and regulations, pesticide toxicity, groundwater quality, pesticide formulations, plant pathology, weed science, entomology, small animal control, and calibration. One-half day extra is allowed for exams. The course uses instructors from the University of Wyoming, Environmental Protection Agency, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Short Course:

This is a multiple day course with information in the areas of laws and regulations, pesticide toxicity, vertebrate pest control, weed control, pesticide safety, integrated pest management, plant disease control, insect control, groundwater, and calibration. This course involves instructors from the University of Wyoming, EPA, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and WDA. Held each year, this course is usually in January and usually in Casper.

Fees

The commercial license application fee is \$25 upon successful completion of examination(s). There is a \$25 renewal fee when requirements for recertification are met. There is no license application fee for government employees or private applicators.

Applicator (Private and Commercial) Training Fees

A registration fee is charged for the initial commercial applicator training session and for the commercial applicator recertification training session. There is no fee or registration charge for private applicator training.

What types of commercial licenses are available?

- **Cat. 901 Ag pest control** (Plant: weed, insect, and disease control), (animal pest control), (rodent control), (chemigation)
- **Cat. 902 Forest pest control**
- **Cat. 903 Ornamental and Turf pest control** (weed, insect, plant disease, rodent control)
- **Cat. 904 Seed Treatment**
- **Cat. 905 Aquatic pest control**
- **Cat. 906 Right-of-way pest control**
- **Cat. 907 Industrial, Institutional, Structural, and Health Related Pest Control** (bird control) **Cat. 908 Public Health pest control**
- **Cat. 909 Regulatory pest control** (rodent control, bird control, vertebrate pest control, M-44, live-stock protection collars);
- **Cat. 910 Demonstration and Research Pest Control**
- **Cat. 911 Specific Use Pest Control** (wood preservation, non-government M-44, non-government livestock protection collar)
- **Cat. 912 Aerial Application.**

Commercial applicators should obtain licenses only in the categories in which they work. There are 12 major categories, and some of these categories have up to five subcategories. Call or write the WDA if unsure as to the category you need or for a copy of the Wyoming Applicator Certification Rules and Regulations. (Technical Services, WDA, 2219 Carey Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82002, (307) 777-6590.)

Additional information concerning Commercial and Private applicator certification, recertification, and training material can be found at www.uwyoextension.org/PSEP/

Issued in furtherance of extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Glen Whipple, director, University of Wyoming Extension, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82071.

The University of Wyoming is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, or political belief in any aspect of employment or services. The institution's educational programs, activities, and services offered to students and/or employees are administered on a nondiscriminatory basis subject to the provisions of all civil rights laws and statutes. Evidence of practices that are not consistent with this policy should be reported to the Employment Practices Office at (307) 766-6721.