Wyoming’s Pesticide Applicator Certification Program

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 re-certified. Training is conducted by the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service. 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.

When must I be re-certified?
Private applicator re-certification runs in five-year blocks of time, and the license expires on April 30 of the appropriate year. You must be re-certified within the appropriate five-year block. At the end of your five-year block another block begins, and you must be re-certified again during this block. This continues as long as you are a pesticide applicator. If you don't re-certify you will not be able to apply restricted use pesticides. Call or write your county Cooperative Extension office for information about becoming certified and obtaining training materials.

Commercial applicator re-certification runs in three-year blocks of time, and the license expires on January 31 of the appropriate year. Call or write your county Cooperative Extension office for information about becoming certified and obtaining training materials.
How do I become re-certified?

Private applicators have three options for re-certification: 1) attending an approved training session, 2) completing a home-study workbook, and 3) passing a written examination. Most private applicators choose to attend the training session. Call or write your county Cooperative Extension office for information about becoming re-certified.

Commercial applicators also have three options for re-certification: 1) attending an approved training session (those individuals whose license expires will be sent a notification of the time and location of an approved training session), 2) passing the appropriate category examinations, and 3) obtaining 24 hours of certification hours within their respective three-year block of time. The 24 hours may not be accumulated in a single year.

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.

An official form provided by the WDA will be used to record the participation of certified applicators in an approved program. It will be the responsibility of the person attending the training to seek approval from WDA for the training, acquire the necessary form(s), provide the correct information necessary to complete the forms, and submit the completed forms back to WDA. The applicator will need to call the WDA for information on its re-certification progress. (i.e., How many of the 24 hours do you have toward re-certification?)

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, 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 three-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 al-
allowed for exams. The course uses 15 instructors from the University of Wyoming, EPA, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and WDA. This course is usually held the first or second week in January at the University of Wyoming.

**Commercial Pesticide Applicator Re-certification Short Course:** This is a one and one-half day course with new 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 11 instructors from the University of Wyoming, EPA, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and WDA. Held each year, this course is usually during the third or fourth week in January and usually in Casper at the Agricultural Resource and Learning Center.

**License Fees**
The commercial license fee is $25 upon successful completion of examination(s). There is a $25 renewal fee when requirements for re-certification are met. There is no license 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 re-certification 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 & 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, & 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, livestock 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); and 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 you are unsure as to the category you need or for a copy of the Wyoming Applicator Certification Rules and Regulations. (Jim Bigelow, director Technical Services, WDA, 2219 Carey Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82002, (307) 777-6590.)
Pesticide Education Program
Prepared by M.A. Ferrell, UW Cooperative Extension Pesticide Coordinator
Department of Plant Sciences, P.O. Box 3354, Laramie, Wyoming 82071-3354, ph (307) 766-5381

Trade or brand names used in this publication are used only for the purpose of educational information. The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement of products by the Agricultural Research Service, Federal Extension Service, or state Cooperative Extension Service is implied. Nor does it imply approval of products to the exclusion of others which may also be suitable.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Glen Whipple, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071-3354.

Persons seeking admission, employment, or access to programs of the University of Wyoming shall be considered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political belief, disability, veteran status, and marital or familial status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact their local UW Extension Office. To file a complaint, write the UW Employment Practices/Affirmative Action Office, University of Wyoming, P.O. Box 3434, Laramie, Wyoming 82071-3434.