

Pesticide safety education begins in January

Written by Gothenburg Times
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LINCOLN—Nebraska commercial and noncommercial pesticide applicators seeking first-time certification or recertification in 2014 to use or purchase restricted-use pesticides can get training through University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension.

Training is offered at several locations statewide from January through April, said Clyde Ogg, UNL Extension pesticide safety educator.

UNL Extension's Pesticide Safety Education Program has sent commercial/noncommercial pesticide applicators with certifications expiring in April a 2014 Pesticide Safety Education Program Schedule booklet that has initial certification and recertification information, as well as training dates. Copies of the schedule booklet are available at local extension offices, by phoning UNL's pesticide education office at 800-627-7216 or 402-472-1632 or online at pested.unl.edu/commercialschedule.

Commercial applicators are those using restricted-use pesticides and in some cases general-use pesticides, on a contract or for-hire basis, Ogg said. Noncommercial applicators are those applying these same pesticides to sites owned by an employer or for a governmental agency or political subdivision of the state.

Advance registration is required for all initial commercial/noncommercial applicator training and most other training sessions. A \$60 fee applies for each applicator registering for February through April sessions, regardless of the number of categories for which the applicator registers.

Required study materials for initial training range from \$10 to \$30 per manual, depending on category.

"Initial certification requires passing a general standards exam and one or more specific applicator categories," Ogg said. Applicants can study by themselves, but for best results, Ogg recommends combining the training with the study materials.

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“Training combined with individual study has the best track record in preparing someone to take the state pesticide license exams,” he said.

Recertification opportunities are available at several extension offices in February and March and at several annual conferences and trade association meetings early in 2014. The only opportunity for commercial applicators to recertify in the Agricultural Plant category and Demo/Research subcategory, other than by examination, will be at UNL Crop Production Clinics in January.

UNL conducts the training programs, and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture grants the licenses. NDA testing is offered at initial training locations. Questions about individual applicator license status should be directed to NDA at 402-471-2351 or 877-800-4080.

Initial certification in several categories is offered at various locations and dates. Available categories vary at each of the locations; check the pesticide applicator education schedule booklet for details.

Those seeking initial certification must preregister for one of the following training sessions and purchase study materials at least 10 days in advance of the training. Preregistration required (pested.unl.edu) for these Central Nebraska locations:

Grand Island: College Park, Hall County Extension Office, 3180 W. Hwy. 34, Feb. 4, 27.

North Platte: UNL West Central Research and Extension Center, 402 W. State Farm Rd, Feb. 4, 27, April 10.

Ogallala: Valentino's, 55 River Road, March 18.

Valentine: Cherry County Extension Office, 365 N. Main St., Ste. 3, March 18.

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Recertification in several applicator categories is offered at the following locations and dates. Available categories vary at each of the locations; check the pesticide applicator education schedule booklet for details. Preregistration required (pested.unl.edu) for these Central Nebraska locations:

Ainsworth: Courthouse Meeting Room, 148 W. 4th St., Feb. 6, 25.

Grand Island: College Park, Hall County Extension Office, 3180 W. Hwy. 34, Feb. 6, 25.

Holdrege: Phelps County Fairgrounds, Ag Center, 1308 2nd St., Feb. 6, March 20.

North Platte: UNL West Central Research and Extension Center, 402 W. State Farm Rd, Feb. 6, 25.

Ogallala: Valentino's, 55 River Road, March 20.

Valentine: Cherry County Extension Office, 365 N. Main St., Ste. 3, March 20.

UNL Crop Production Clinics are a great way to recertify in the Agricultural Pest Control—Plant category. Preregister on-line for \$60 (<http://cpc.unl.edu>) or at the door for \$75. Central Nebraska clinics begin at 8:45 a.m., local time, at the following locations:

Jan. 8—North Platte; Sandhills Convention Center, 2102 S. Jeffers

Jan. 9—Hastings; Adams County Fairgrounds, 947 S. Baltimore

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Jan. 14—Kearney; Younes Conference Center, 416 Talmadge Rd