



Photo: Matthew Sullivan, The Ohio State University

### Do you need to become a licensed private applicator? Yes, if you are:

- Applying *restricted-use* pesticides to your own land or rented land to produce an agricultural commodity.
- Applying *restricted-use* pesticides to other areas on your farm such as grain bins, ponds, livestock, etc.

### What is the purpose of licensing pesticide applicators?

Licensing is required to ensure applicators responsibly use restricted-use pesticides without causing harm to themselves, the public, or the environment.

### What is the certification for fertilizer applications?

Fertilizer applicator certification is separate from pesticide applicator licensing. Information about becoming certified for fertilizer applications is available at [nutrienteducation.osu.edu](http://nutrienteducation.osu.edu) or by contacting OSU Extension county offices.

## License Renewal and Recertification

Your private pesticide applicator license will expire every **three years** on March 31. Before the license expires, you will need to:

- Pay \$30 to the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
- Re-test in Core and each category on your license **OR** attend 3 hours of recertification training.

Recertification training is available through OSU Extension county programs. For a listing of programs, visit [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu) or your county OSU Extension office.

You will receive a letter from ODA before your license expires reminding you to renew and attend recertification training (or retake the exams).

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For questions about study guides, recertification, and training opportunities, contact your county OSU Extension office or:

**Pesticide Safety Education Program**  
**Ohio State University Extension**  
614-292-4070 • [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu)



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

For questions about licensing and exams, contact:

**Ohio Department of Agriculture**  
614-728-6987 • [agri.ohio.gov](http://agri.ohio.gov)



## OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Pesticide Safety Education Program

# Ohio Private Pesticide Applicator License Requirements



Who needs to be licensed and the steps to take



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# How to Become a Licensed Private Pesticide Applicator

To become a licensed private pesticide applicator, you will need to pass exams to purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides. Here's how to get started:

## Prepare for the exams

- You are required to hold "Core" and the category (or categories) that pertain to the crop(s) you are raising on your farm.
- Core covers the basics of pesticide application, from reading the label to safety procedures and environmental stewardship. Each category is specific to the crops you are raising.
- Study guides for Core and each category are available from OSU Extension county offices or at [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu)

**Here is a listing of the crop categories and study materials recommended to help you prepare for the exams:**

### Core Information

All applicators are required to take the Core exam.

- Core Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 825-A)
- Available at OSU Extension county offices

### 1 - Grain and Cereal Crops

Agronomic field crops such as corn, grain, sorghums, other small grains, soybeans, and sweet corn.

- Field Crops Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 821)
- Available at OSU Extension county offices

### 2 - Forage Crops and Livestock

Crops grown primarily for use as hay, forage, fodder, or ensilage, as well as applications to agricultural animals and their quarters.

- Forage and Livestock Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 821-2)
- Available online at [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu)\*

*\* If you do not have internet access, you can visit an OSU Extension county office and purchase copies of the study guide.*

### 3 - Fruit and Vegetable Crops

Orchard fruit crops, and small fruits including strawberries, brambles, and grapes, field-grown vegetables, sugar beets, sweet corn, and other horticultural crops grown primarily for human consumption.

- Fruit & Vegetable Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 821-3)
- Available online at [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu)\*

### 4 - Nursery and Forest Crops

Commercial nursery crops including trees, shrubs, grasses, and herbaceous plants produced for replanting for their ornamental value or for future fruit production; and tree crops produced for use as Christmas trees or for utilitarian value.

- Nursery and Forest Crops Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 821-4)
- Available online at [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu)\*

### 5 - Greenhouse Crops

Crops grown for food production or ornamental value under an impervious surface large enough to permit worker entry. *Note:* This category includes high tunnels as well as greenhouses.

- Greenhouse Study Guide
- Available online at [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu)\*

### 6 - Fumigation

Application of restricted-use fumigants to soil, grain storage, greenhouse or any other confined areas.

- Stored Grain Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 821-10)
- Available online at [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu)\*

### 7 - Specialty Uses\*

Application of restricted-use pesticides for purposes not covered in the above categories such as wood preservation, aqua culture, seed treatment, sod production, and for controlling pests of tobacco, hops, ponds, and non-cropland areas.

*\* Note: Specialty uses are considered part of categories 1-6. You do not need to add category 7 if you have another category on your license. For example, if an applicator has category 3, fruit and vegetable crops, on his or her license, and also raises hops, there is no requirement to add category 7.*

## Register and take the exams

- Register with Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) for an exam date and location by registering on-line at [agri.ohio.gov](http://agri.ohio.gov) or by calling 614-728-6987. Exams locations are offered around Ohio every month.
- After taking the exam, ODA will send a license application and invoice with your exam results letter.
- Once you pass your exams, send in the completed application and \$30 license fee to ODA.
- If you need to retake an exam, you must wait at least one week from the last time you took the exam. Exams can be taken as many times as needed in order to pass.
- Once the exams are passed and the \$30 license fee is paid, you will receive the license in the mail.



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