

## Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings in January, February & March

Federal and state law states a private pesticide applicator must be certified and licensed to buy, use, or supervise the use of RESTRICTED-USE pesticides to produce an agricultural commodity on property they own or rent or on an employer's property if the applicator is an employee of a farmer. No certification is needed if one will only be using general-use pesticides.

In answer to a larger demand, six training sessions have been scheduled in Lancaster County. There is a \$15 fee collected at the training session. When the Nebraska Department of Agriculture receives the application from the training session, private applicators will be billed \$25 for a license fee. One fee covers the three-year license period.

Dates and times for Private Pesticide Applicator Training in Lancaster County, held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln:

- Saturday, Jan. 29, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 1, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 23, 8:30–11:30 a.m., repeated at 1:30–4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 3, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 16, 1:30–4:30 p.m.

## Commercial Pesticide Applicator Trainings in January, February & April

Commercial applicators are persons who apply restricted-use pesticides for hire or compensation. This pertains to application for any purpose on any property other than property owned or rented by the applicator or their employer. Commercial applicators shall also include any person who applies lawn care or structural pest control pesticides (whether restricted-use or general-use) to the land of another person for hire or compensation.



One must pass a written examination in the general standards category and one or more additional categories to become certified as a commercial applicator. Commercial certification is good for three years. Once certified in a category, one can maintain commercial certification by attending a recertification training session or by passing a written examination, with a few exceptions explained below.

Initial certification training and testing sessions for commercial applicators will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center on Tuesday, Feb. 1; Thursday, Feb. 24 and Thursday, April 21. General Standards will start at 9 a.m. and other categories begin at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. It is highly recommended one obtain and review written study materials prior to attending the training session for initial certification — this will greatly improve one's chances of passing the written examination.

Recertification sessions will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center on Thursday, Feb. 3 and Tuesday, Feb. 22 with General Standards starting at 9 a.m. and other categories beginning at 1 p.m. or 3 p.m.

Note: Due to time and space limitations, only specific categories will be presented on training days. Call the pesticide education office 472-1632 or the Lancaster County Extension Office 441-7180 to learn which specific categories will be offered on a given day.

To register for a training session, call the UNL pesticide education office at 472-1632. Training fee is \$30. Commercial applicators who wish to pick up additional certification in a specific category should register as well — the fee for adding one or more categories to an existing certification is \$15.

There are no certification training sessions for: Fumigation of Soil, Agricultural Pest Control - Animal, Forest Pest Control, Sewer Root Control with Metam Sodium, Wildlife Damage Control, Seed Treatment, Regulatory Pest Control (subcategory) and Demonstration/Research Pest Control (subcategory). The only way to certify or recertify in these categories is to pass a written examination. There are self-study materials which will prepare the applicator to take the examinations in these categories.

In addition to the training sessions mentioned above, applicators already certified in General Standards and Agricultural Plant can recertify in these two categories by attending the Crop Protection Clinic on Monday, Jan. 24.

Pesticide Applicator Training Manuals for various categories can be ordering from the UNL pesticide education office at 472-1632. Order form and price list is also online at <http://pested.unl.edu/pat/>.

## Chemigation Certification Training, Feb. 23

In order to apply pesticides or fertilizer in irrigation water, a permit must be obtained for the site and the person who oversees the application must be certified as a chemigator. To obtain a chemigation permit for a site, application must be made with the local Natural Resources District (NRD), a fee paid and the site must pass inspection by NRD personnel who check for required safety equipment and is in working order. State law requires the operator receive training and pass a written test to be certified as a chemigator. Certification is good for four years.

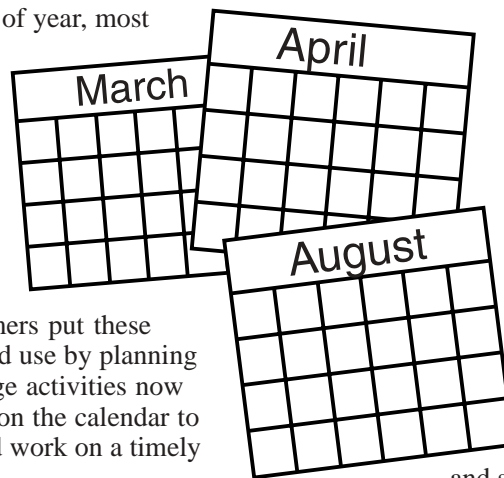
A chemigation training and testing session is scheduled at the Lancaster Extension Education Center for Wednesday, Feb. 23 starting at 6:30 p.m. Initial training and certification is \$15 — which includes a study notebook. It is strongly encouraged to preregister and pick up notebook prior to initial certification. Recertification and training is \$10. (TD)

## Plan Your Forage Calendar Now to Stack on Track

At this time of year, most of us have an abundance of new calendars—from the coop, the bank and maybe as a gift. Dr. Bruce Anderson, UNL Forage Specialist suggests farmers put these calendars to good use by planning next year's forage activities now and make notes on the calendar to complete needed work on a timely basis.

For example, order alfalfa and other seeds in January and February to make sure you get what you want. In March remind yourself to pull any soil samples you didn't get last fall, as well as, get ready to plant oats at your earliest opportunity.

By mid-April, be sure to get alfalfa planted before corn planting begins. This might also mean lime and phosphorus or other fertilizers needed to be applied even earlier. Cool-season grass pastures also should be fertilized by mid-April.



When May arrives, get your thistles sprayed right away and begin checking your alfalfa, so once buds just start to form, you can be ready for an early first cutting that brings a premium price.

In late May, warm-season grass pastures can use some fertilizer

and shortly thereafter, your summer annuals need to be planted.

Then be ready in early August to prepare and plant turnips or oats for late fall, early winter grazing. Finally, finish your year by sampling and testing all your harvested forages so you can plan and feed animals during winter to meet their needs at lowest cost.

I'm sure you can think of many other items to add to your own calendar. Make those notes now, and in twelve months you will smile, knowing you got all your forage work done correctly and on time. (TD)

## Workshop on Making the Transition to No-Till, Feb. 11

Making the transition to a no-till system will be the topic of a workshop held, Friday, Feb. 11, 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road. There is no registration fee.

Featured speaker is UNL Agricultural Engineer Paul Jasa. He has over 25 years experience studying no-till and reduced-tillage systems at the Rogers Memorial Farm in eastern Lancaster County as well as many demonstration plots on farmer-owned fields. Jasa has earned the respect of producers, industry reps and academics with his practical, farm-tested, systems approach to no-till. He averages over 75 presentations per year in Nebraska and has been an invited speaker at many national tillage meetings.

Jasa not only knows the effect of farming practices on soil properties, he is a recognized expert on getting planters, drills and air seeders to produce a good stand. Paul breaks the job of any planter down to accomplishing four things. "They must cut and handle residue, penetrate the soil to desired seeding depth, establish proper seed-to-soil contact and close the seed-vee." Keeping these four things in mind, a producer can evaluate the strengths or weaknesses of any piece of planting equipment (or attachment) and make any adjustment or changes necessary to make no-till successful. Paul will show examples of various planting equipment and attachments with tips on how to best use them in no-till systems. He'll also cover other equipment considerations for harvesting, spraying and fertilizer application.

In addition, a panel of farmers will share their experiences with transitioning to no-till. Jim Harder, coordinator of the Wagon Train Watershed Project, will discuss the goals of the project and talk about cost-share programs for water quality improvement within the watershed.

This workshop is jointly sponsored by the Lancaster County Extension, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) and Lancaster County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices. (TD)



Paul Jasa has conducted a long-term tillage system study on the Rogers Memorial Farm. This photo from 2000 shows, to the row, the difference between tillage systems in height and head size for grain sorghum in a drought year. The no-till grain sorghum in the rows left of center, averaged 121.4 bu/A and the fall plow sorghum on the right averaged 61.2 bu/A.