

## Upcoming Pesticide Applicator Trainings

### Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings

Federal and state law states a private pesticide applicator must be certified and licensed to buy, use or supervise the use of a restricted-use pesticide 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 pesticide license is needed if the applicator will only be using general-use pesticides.

Applicators whose certification is due to expire on April 15, 2008 will receive a letter from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA).

There are two certification options for private pesticide applicators: attend a UNL Extension training session or take a self study book and test. If you are re-certifying, bring the notification letter and registration form you received from the NDA.

Extension forwards all application forms to the NDA which then bills private applicators a \$25 license fee. The license is good for three years, expiring on April 15, 2011 for those who certify this spring.

**Private Pesticide Applicator Training Sessions** will be offered at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln:

- Thursday, Jan. 24, 8:30–11:30 a.m.;

- repeated 1:30–4:30 p.m.
- Saturday Feb. 2, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 19, 1:30–4:30 p.m.;
- repeated 6:30–9:30 p.m.

A \$30 extension training fee will be collected at the training session (make checks payable to Lancaster County Extension).

**The Self Study Method** of receiving certification can be done at any time throughout the year. A self study book and associated materials may be picked up at the extension office. The applicator can read the chapters, answer the written test questions and bring the book back to the office where the test will be graded. A \$60 fee will be collected when the book is picked up. The application form will be forwarded to the NDA.

### Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training

Commercial applicators are persons who apply restricted-use pesticides for any purpose on any property other than property owned or rented by the applicator or their employer or when they apply for another party for hire or compensation. Note: any person who applies any lawn care or structural pest control pesticides whether these pesticides are restricted-use or general-use, to property of another person must be certified as a commercial applicator.

Public employees (employed by a town, county, state) applying mosquito control pesticides whether restricted-use or general-use, must also hold a commercial or non-commercial certification.

To become licensed initially as a commercial applicator, you must pass a written examination in the general standards category and one or more additional categories. A commercial license is good for three years. Once licensed in a category, the applicator can maintain certification by attending a re-certification training session or by passing a written examination, with a few exceptions explained below.

UNL Extension offers Commercial Initial Certification and Recertification Training Sessions. Call the UNL Pesticide Education office at 472-1632 to register for a session. The training fee for either initial or recertification sessions is \$50. Note: Due to time and space limitations, only specific categories will be presented on training days. Call the UNL Pesticide Education office at 472-1632 or the Lancaster County Extension office at 441-7180 to learn which specific categories will be offered on a given day.

Commercial applicators meeting the requirements for certification or recertification will receive an invoice from the NDA for \$90 for the license fee.

**Initial Commercial Certification** training and testing sessions will

be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. These are scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 5, Wednesday, Feb. 28 and Thursday, April 17 with general standards starting at 9 a.m. and other categories will begin at 1 p.m. or 3 p.m.

It is highly recommended applicants obtain and review written study materials prior to attending the training session for initial certification. This will greatly improve chances of passing the written examination. Study materials for all commercial categories may be purchased from the UNL Pesticide Education office, 101 Natural Resources Hall on East Campus, 472-1632 or online at <http://pested.unl.edu/pat>

**Commercial Recertification Training Sessions** will be offered Thursday, Feb. 7 and Tuesday, March 18 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. The general standards session will start at 9 a.m. and other categories will begin at 1 p.m. or 3 p.m.

*Note: There are no certification training sessions for: Fumigation of Soil, Agricultural Pest Control - Animal, Forest Pest Control, Sewer Root Control with Metam Sodium, 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.*

## Crop Protection Clinic, Jan. 22

UNL Extension in Lancaster county will host a Crop Protection Clinic on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at the Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road in Lincoln with registration starting at 8:15 a.m. and opening comments at 8:45 a.m.

The 2008 Crop Protection Clinics, sponsored by UNL Extension, will address new problems, new products and recommendations for crop pest management in Nebraska. Extension specialists in weed science, plant pathology and entomology will cover the "hot" topics in the crop protection industry and share objective, research-based information to help you better manage inputs and production costs.

**General session topics include:**

- Soybean Insect Management
- Corn Disease Update
- Weed Control Tips for Reduced Till Systems
- Alfalfa Insect Management
- Wheat Disease Update
- What's New in Pest Management
- Back to Basics (Pesticide Application Safety)
- Nozzle Tip Selection to Improve Efficacy and to Manage Drift

**Concurrent sessions (pick 2 of 3):**

- IPM: As Important Now as Ever
- Fungicides From Label to Harvest (presented twice)
- Preserving Glyphosate: Thoughts on One Decade of Glyphosate-Resistant Crops

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. and the clinic runs from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. The registration fee is \$40 and includes meals, refreshments and written materials.

The Clinic also meets recertification requirements for **Commercial** and **Non-commercial** applicators in the Ag plant category and its subcategories: research and demonstration and regulatory. Bring your current Commercial pesticide applicator registration card. **Note: The Crop Protection Clinic does NOT satisfy the training requirements to recertify as a PRIVATE applicator nor does it satisfy the requirements to recertify commercial pesticide applicators in categories not listed above.**

Clinic organizers have applied for 4.0 CEU Certified Crop Advisor credits in the pest management competency area.



More than 100 people attended last year's Crop Protection Clinic in Lincoln.

## Computerized Farm Financial Recordkeeping Workshop, Feb. 16

One of the most popular in-depth extension programs, a Computerized Farm Financial Recordkeeping workshop will be offered Saturday, Feb. 16, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, in Lincoln.

Preregistration with payment is required to hold a spot. Stop in at the extension office to fill out a registration form or call 441-7180 and ask for a brochure with registration form to be mailed to you. Registration will be limited to the first 20 farm operations on a first-come, first-served basis (may have one or two people from the same operation at a computer).

The concepts taught in this workshop are applicable to several inexpensive computerized record keeping software programs, with slight modifications in procedure. This workshop will be taught hands-on using Quicken 2008 Starter™ in the classroom. No prior computerized recordkeeping experience is necessary. However, some prior experience with a hand-kept single entry accounting system (such as the extension blue book) would be useful. At a minimum, participants should have experience with keeping a checkbook ledger, (preferably one that is periodically reconciled with bank statements).

All instruction will be presented in a hands-on teaching style with participants sitting at computers performing the tasks being demonstrated. Participants, therefore,



should have a basic familiarity with using a computer and typing on a computer keyboard, but typing is purposely kept to a minimum in the interest of time.

Participants will receive instruction on:

- Setting up and starting your financial record-keeping system.

- Developing a customized chart of accounts (called categories in Quicken) to track income and expenses.
- Entering transactions into the ledger (single transactions and deposits or checks which should be split between multiple categories).
- Retrieving information from your recordkeeping system in the form of various reports.
- Setting up and making payments on term loans within the record-keeping system.
- Reconciling the ledger with the bank statement.
- Backing up your data and other frequently asked questions.
- Manipulating your farm record data in Excel to create a Cash Flow Plan, a Balance Sheet and an Income Statement.

To save time, much of the instruction on generating reports will be done using sample data files that have been created to represent a typical crop and livestock farming operation. Participants will receive step-by-step written instructions for all tasks being demonstrated. Many folks comment the handouts are one of the best aspects of the training.

The training will also be held on Feb. 6 in Falls City and Feb. 11 in Aurora.