

Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Opportunities

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 (RUP) to produce an agricultural commodity on property they own or rent—or on an employer's property if the applicator is an employee of the farmer. No pesticide license is needed if the applicator will only be applying General Use Pesticides (GUPs) or if you hire a commercial applicator to apply RUPs to your property.

If you do not have a current private pesticide certification and you plan to buy or apply any RUP products, you will need to receive the same certification training as described below for people who need to be recertified. All training sessions meet the requirements for both initial certification or recertification as private pesticide applicators.

If your private applicator certification expires in 2009, you will receive (or have already received) a notification letter from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA). Be sure to keep the letter from NDA and bring it with you to the training session you choose or when you pick up home study materials. The NDA letter contains a bar-code form which tells NDA what they need to know about you.

Regardless of the certification method chosen, all applicants will receive an invoice from the NDA for the \$25 license fee. Note: we cannot collect the license fee at the extension office. The certification and license is good for three years, expiring on April 15, 2012 for those who certify this spring. You should receive your new license within three weeks.

Starting in 2009, private pesticide applicators will have four alternative methods to obtain either recertification or initial certification.

Traditional Training Sessions

Three private pesticide applicator training sessions have been scheduled in 2009 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road in Lincoln.

- Thursday, Jan. 29 from 8:30–11:30 a.m., repeated 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 7 from 8:30–11:30 a.m.

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

Self-Study Option

The second option is to pick up the self study book and associated materials at the extension office. You are expected to read the chapters, then you must answer the written test questions in the back of the book. When you bring the book back to the office, the test will be graded by our staff while you wait (usually about five minutes). You will have an opportunity to see the test results and see the correct answers to any questions you have answered incorrectly.

The \$60 training fee for this method of obtaining certification will be collected when the home study book is picked up.

Testing Option

The third option is to take a written (closed-book) examination given by the NDA. You must call ahead for an appointment with NDA at 471-2394. There is no training fee if you choose this option. You will need to pay the \$25 license fee. You should receive your new license within two weeks after you receive a passing grade on your written test.

Certify at a Crop Production Clinic

The former Crop Protection Clinics have been restructured with an extended range of topics and are now called Crop Production Clinics. For most of the day, participants will make choices between two or more topics being presented concurrently. Private applicators may receive initial certification or recertification by attending the full day and attending the mandatory sessions to certify as a private applicator.

There will not be a clinic in Lincoln in 2009. The Crop Production Clinics held in southeast Nebraska will be:

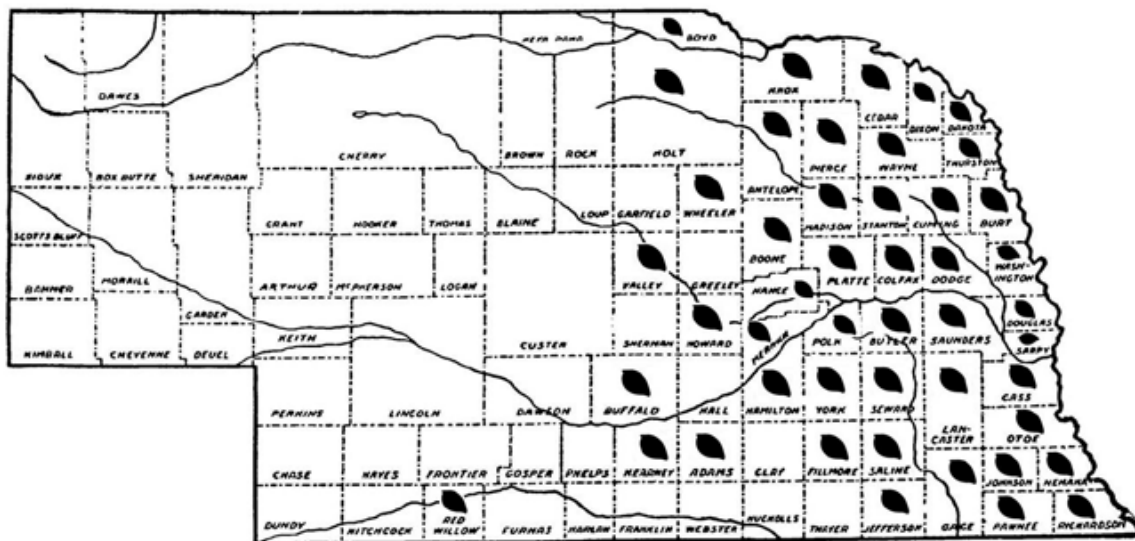
- Tuesday, Jan. 13—Beatrice (Eagles Club, 111 S. 8 St.)
- Wednesday, Jan. 14—York (The Auditorium, 612 N. Nebraska Ave.)
- Thursday, Jan. 22—Fremont (Midland Lutheran College, 900 N. Clarkson)

Note: all clinics start at 8:30 a.m. If you are planning to receive certification as a private applicator at the Crop Production Clinic, be sure to arrive early and register with the NDA at the check in table. They need proof you were there for the full day.

In addition to the normal \$50 registration fee for the Crop Production Clinic, an additional \$30 fee will be assessed if you will be receiving private applicator certification.

Soybean Cyst Nematode Spreading in Nebraska

Free Soil Sampling Kits at Extension Offices



Nebraska state map showing counties with soybean cyst nematodes present as of 2008.

Tom Dorn

UNL Extension Educator

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN), *Heterodera glycines*, is an increasing production problem for Nebraska's soybean producers. It has now been confirmed in 45 counties in eastern and central Nebraska. Over 24,000 eggs per 100 cc (three ounces) of soil have been recorded in surveys of some Nebraska fields. That translates into over 1,000 eggs per teaspoon of soil, each egg capable of hatching and initiating an infection in the roots. Once established in a field, SCN egg numbers continue to increase unless proper management actions are taken.

Field Symptoms

Symptoms of SCN infestation can be difficult to identify. Usually, the first indication of a problem is when yields are below expectations. Moderate levels of SCN may not produce any visible above-ground symptoms, yet yields may

be reduced 5–10 bushels per acre. The first visual sign of an SCN infestation is usually a slight variation in the height of otherwise healthy looking, dark green plants. Higher SCN levels can cause plant stunting and yellowing and increased levels of yield loss.

Above-ground symptoms can be confused with damage from compaction, nutrient deficiencies, drought stress, low-lying wet areas, herbicide injury and other plant diseases. Circular to oval areas of stunted, yellowed plants can be observed. Areas of SCN injury often are elongated in the direction of tillage practices, since the cysts are spread by tillage equipment. Susceptible soybeans grown in SCN-infested soils are slower to reach canopy closure.

Free Soil Sampling

Soil sampling is the first step to managing SCN.

To increase the awareness of SCN and to better define the extent of its distribution in Nebraska, a postage paid

sampling kit (\$20 value) has been provided by the Nebraska Soybean Board. These can be picked up at University of Nebraska Extension offices in counties where soybeans are grown. Each kit contains a bag for you to submit a sample to the Plant & Pest Diagnostic Clinic at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and directions for collecting a soil sample.

Collect 10 to 15 cores around the roots to a depth of six to eight inches and mix them in a bucket. Fill a standard soil-sampling container with the mixed soil sample. Store samples in a cool place (not in the sun), and ship as soon as possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

UNL Extension NebGuide G1383, "Soybean Cyst Nematode Biology and Management," available at the extension office online at <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/sendIt/g1383.pdf>

Our Science. Your Success.
Advancing American Agriculture Together

Please join us as a special guest when the **Monsanto Mobile Technology Unit** visits the **University of Nebraska -- Lincoln East Campus:**
Date: January 15, 2009
Time: Groups starting at 9 am and 1 pm
Location: Parking lot west of Mussehl Hall
For additional information or to schedule a tour, call 402-472-9581 or SoutheastExtension@UNL.edu

The Mobile Technology Unit is a unique traveling exhibit showcasing Monsanto's advances in plant breeding, biotechnology and new product innovations in corn, soybean and cotton. During your visit, Ag Educators will provide a firsthand look at how Monsanto is applying advanced science to help farmers be more profitable and create new market opportunities for their crops. University specialists will discuss current cropping issues and research. Producers will also visit UNL research facilities.

Don't miss this great experience!

Students are invited January 13–14, 8–4 pm daily.
Explore majors and careers!