Private Pesticide Applicator Certification

Federal and state law states a private pesticide applicator must be certified and licensed to buy, sell or supervise the use of a restricted-use pesticide (RUP) to produce an agricultural commodity. Only if 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 have 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 buy, sell or supervise.

All training sessions meet the requirements for both initial certification or recertification as private pesticide applicators. If your private applicator certification expires in 2016, you must (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 training you need to complete. Regardless of the certification method chosen, all applicants will receive an invoice from the NDA for the $25 license fee. You cannot collect the fee at the Extension office. The certification and license are good for three years, expiring on April 15, 2019. If you choose the spring option, you will need to pay the $25 license fee. You should receive your new license within three weeks after you receive a passing grade on your written test.

Testing Option

Take a written (closed-book) examination given by the NDA to receive either a new license or recertify an existing license. Contact NDA, 402-471-2351, for testing dates. There is no testing fee if you choose this option, but you will need to pay the $25 license fee. You should receive your new license within three weeks after you receive a passing grade on your written test.

Recertify at a Crop Production Clinic

At Crop Production Clinics, private applicators may receive recertification by attending the full day and following the mandatory sessions to recertify as a private applicator. Commercial and Noncommercial Pesticide applicates may renew in Ag Plant, Regulatory or Demonstration/Research. Pesticide applicators may not be certified or recertified at a Crop Production Clinic.

The Crop Production Clinics held in southeast Nebraska will be:

• Thursday, Jan. 12 — Beatrice (Beatrice, Beatrice County Club, 5th Street and Oak Street) — 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

• Thursday, March 10, 6:30—9:30 p.m.

Commercial/Noncommercial applicators, professionals who apply restricted-use pesticides for hire or compensation, on property that is not owned or rented by themselves or their employer. Anyone who applies pesticides to the property of another person, either restricted- or general-use products, for control of pests in lawns, landscapes, buildings or homes must also have a commercial pesticide applicators license. Public employees (those employed by a town, county, state) applying mosquito control pesticides whether restricted or general use, must also hold a commercial or noncommercial certification.

Initial and Recertification

To become licensed as a new commercial/ noncommercial applicator, professionals must pass a written examination. All participants must be tested in the general standards category, then each chooses one or more additional categories for testing.

Once licensed in a category, professionals can maintain their commercial certification by attending a recertification training session or by passing a written examination. Nebraska Extension offers training to prepare those seeking a pesticide applicators license for the first time, and recertification for those needing to keep their license active. The program cost for both initial and recertifying participants who register online is $60/person; for those registering by mail, fax or at the door, the cost is $70/person.

For statewide training locations, dates and categories, go to http://pestal.unl.edu. For more information about the trainings in Lancaster County, call 402-441-7180.

Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training

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Successful Farmer Workshop Series

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County will be hosting a new educational workshop series for farmers, landowners and ag business professionals. The “Successful Farmer Series” will consist of workshops held every other Friday this winter. Each workshop is focused on multiple topics pertinent to the agricultural industry:

• Jan. 8 — Cover Crops, Pasture/Range Management, Conservation Programs

• Jan. 22 — Climate Outlook, Nitrogen Management, Soybean Disease Management

• Feb. 5 — Weed Identification/ Management, Weed Resistance

• Feb. 19 — Climate Outlook, Nitrogen Application Timing, NRD Programs

• March 4 — Farm Economics, Rental Agreements, Farm Bill Programs

• March 18 — Climate Outlook, Attendee’s Pick

The workshops will be 9–11:30 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road. Participants have the option of registering for one workshop or registering for the entire series. Cost is $15 for the series or $5 per workshop. Pre-registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. List of presenters and registration form is online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/ag/SuccessfulFarmerBrochure.pdf. If questions or to reserve your spot by phone, call Tyler Williams or Karen Wedding at 402-441-7180.

Upcoming Green Industry Conference Dates

GREAT PLAINS GROWERS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 7–9, 2016

A CONFERENCE FOR BEGINNING & SEASONED GROWERS

Hosted by Agriculture Services, Vegetable Growers’ Associations of MO, KS, NE, IA & SD, and the Mid America Fruit Grower’s Association

Location: Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO

The conference will focus on a wide range of topics for both fruit and/or vegetable growers including:

• Jan. 7 — Fruit: Greenhouse & Hydroponics — Production, Tree Fruit, Cover Crops, Soil Health, Honeybees, Scaling Up

• Jan. 8 — general tracks: Tree/Small Fruit, Commercial & Organic Production — Vegetable PM, Alternative Crops, Cut Flowers, Food Safety/GAPs

Contact Buchanan County Extension Office

816-279-1691

www.greatplainsgrowersconference.org

NEBRASKA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 12–14, 2016

NEBRASKA TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Location: Embassy Suites Omaha-La Vista/ Hotel & Conference Center, 402-472-5331 • www.nebraskaturfgrass.com/events/nebraska-turf-conference

NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 18–19, 2016

NEBRASKA ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION

NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

Location: Ramada Plaza Omaha Convention Center

402-476-3865 • www.nebraskaarbortist.org

www.nlnla.org

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For statewide training locations, dates and categories, go to http://pestal.unl.edu. For more information about the trainings in Lancaster County, call 402-441-7180.

Initial commercial certification training sessions will be offered at the Lancaster Education Extension Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road on the following dates:

• Thursday, Feb. 4

• Thursday, March 24

The general standards session begins at 8:30 a.m. It is highly recommended you obtain and review the written study materials prior to attending. This will greatly improve your chances of passing the written examination. Study materials for all commercial categories must be purchased online at http://pestal.unl.edu (click on “Classes & Study Materials”).

Commercial recertiﬁcation training sessions will be offered at the Lancaster Education Extension Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road on the following dates:

• Thursday, Feb. 4

• Thursday, March 24

The general standards session begins at 9 a.m.

NDA Licensing Procedures

Commercial/Noncommercial applicators meeting the requirements for certification or re-certification will receive an invoice from the NDA for $90 for the license fee. When NDA receives the fee, the license will be issued. For more information about pesticide licensing, go to www.agr.ne.govpesticide.