



## Managing nutrients for cleaner water

Education is the key component of the new fertilizer certification and farmers will receive research-based training to keep nutrients in the field and available to crops while reducing nutrients leaving the field.

This certification requirement is in response to concern that phosphorous from farm fields contribute to blue-green algal blooms in Lake Erie and escaping nitrogen contributes to the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

Efforts, in addition to the fertilizer certification, will continue across the state to reduce all nonpoint sources of excess nutrients, both in rural and urban areas.

Best management practices will be the basis of the agricultural fertilizer certification training with a focus on fertilizer applications that have the appropriate:

- Rate
- Timing
- Placement
- Source

## OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

### Ohio Recordkeeping Requirements for Agricultural Fertilizer Applications

*Application records need documented within 24 hours of the application and kept for three years by the certified applicator. The required items to record are:*

- Name of the responsible agricultural fertilizer certificate holder (and name of applicator if different)
- Date of application (month, day, and year)
- Location or field identification number of fertilizer application area
- Rate of application (e.g., pounds of fertilizer per acre)
- Analysis of fertilizer applied (e.g., 11-52-0)
- Application method (soil injected, incorporated, surface-applied, etc.)
- Soil conditions at the time of application
- Temperature, precipitation, and other weather conditions at the time of application
  - ◇ For surface applications only:  
Was the ground frozen or snow-covered (yes/no)?
- Weather forecast for the day following the application

There is no standard format required, but the records need to contain all items listed. Records need to be available to the Ohio Department of Agriculture upon request.

## OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



### Ohio Agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification Requirements



#### THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Pesticide Safety Education Program  
614-292-4070 • [pested@osu.edu](mailto:pested@osu.edu)  
[nutrienteducation.osu.edu](http://nutrienteducation.osu.edu)



Department of  
Agriculture

Pesticide & Fertilizer Regulation  
614-728-6987 • [pesticides@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:pesticides@agri.ohio.gov)  
[agri.ohio.gov](http://agri.ohio.gov)



### Do I need agricultural fertilizer certification?

The certification is required if you apply fertilizer (other than manure) to more than 50 acres of agricultural production grown primarily for sale. If you hire a co-op or other custom applicator for fertilizer applications, you do not need the certification. If you do not

have an Ohio Pesticide Applicator License, you need to attend a 3-hour class. If you have a license, you need to attend a 2-hour class.

### Do I need the certification if I raise forage for my livestock?

The term “agricultural production” is defined as the cultivation, primarily for sale, of plants or any parts of plants on more than 50 acres. If you raise forage (e.g., hay, silage, corn) for use on your farm, and have questions about fertilizer certification, please contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 614-728-6987 or email: [pesticides@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:pesticides@agri.ohio.gov)

### When do I need the certification?

Individuals are encouraged to obtain certification as soon as possible, or when renewing their pesticide applicator license. The certification must be obtained by September 30, 2017.

### What records need to be kept?

The records for agricultural fertilizer applications must be kept by the certified applicator. Recordkeeping requirements are listed on the back panel of this brochure and are available online at [nutrienteducation.osu.edu](http://nutrienteducation.osu.edu)

## To become certified for agricultural fertilizer applications: Attend a **3-hour** class if you **DO NOT** have an Ohio Pesticide Applicator License.

1. Attend a fertilizer certification training class offered by Ohio State University Extension. A schedule of classes will be available at [nutrienteducation.osu.edu](http://nutrienteducation.osu.edu) or by contacting your county OSU Extension office. You will need to attend a 3-hour class that offers initial certification.
2. Complete and sign the fertilizer certification form at the end of the training class. The form will be mailed by OSU Extension to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. You will retain a copy for your records.
3. Pay \$30 for the fertilizer applicator certification. The invoice for the certification fee will be sent to you by the Ohio Department of Agriculture after you complete the fertilizer certification training class. You will need to recertify for fertilizer application certification every three years.

## To become certified for agricultural fertilizer applications: Attend a **2-hour** class if you **HAVE** an Ohio Pesticide Applicator License.

1. Attend a 2-hour fertilizer certification training class offered by Ohio State University Extension **when your pesticide recertification is due**. You will be receiving a mailing with your pesticide recertification renewal that has a schedule of classes available, or you can visit [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu).
2. Complete and sign the fertilizer certification form at the end of the training class. The form will be mailed by OSU Extension to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. You will retain a copy for your records.
3. You're done! Because you already have an Ohio pesticide applicator license, there is no charge for the fertilizer certification. You will need to recertify your fertilizer certification every three years along with your pesticide applicator license.