

Managing nutrients for cleaner water

Education is the key component of the new fertilizer certification. Farmers will receive research-based training on methods to keep nutrients in the field and available to crops.

Best management practices will be the basis of the agricultural fertilizer certification training with a focus on fertilizer applications that promotes the 4 R's of Nitrogen Management:

- The right rate
- The right time
- The right place
- The right source

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

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

One key effort is **On-Field Ohio**. Farmers can use this web-based tool to evaluate how different crop management practices affect phosphorus loss and erosion from their fields.

nutrientmanagement.osu.edu

Ohio Recordkeeping Requirements for Agricultural Fertilizer Applications

Application records must be documented within 24 hours of the application and kept for three years by the certified applicator. Records must contain the following:

- Name of applicator and certificate holder
- Date of application (month, day, and year)
- Location of fertilizer application
- Number of acres applied
- Rate of application (e.g., pounds of fertilizer per acre)
- Total amount of fertilizer applied (weight or volume)
- Analysis of fertilizer applied (e.g., 11-52-0)
- Application method (soil injected, incorporated, surface-applied, etc.)
- Soil conditions at the time of application
- Air temperature and precipitation at 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.

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CFAES

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
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nutrienteducation.osu.edu

Pesticide & Fertilizer Regulation
614-728-6987 • pesticides@agri.ohio.gov
agri.ohio.gov

Do I need agricultural fertilizer certification?

Anyone who applies fertilizer for agricultural production must be certified. "Agricultural production" is defined as the cultivation, primarily for sale, of plants or any parts of plants on more than 50 acres. Anhydrous ammonia applications are included in this requirement; startup fertilizer applied through a planter is exempt. Certified Livestock Managers (CLM) and Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) who need certification are exempt from the training requirement, but should contact ODA's Fertilizer Program to obtain the certificate.

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

If you raise forage for livestock use on your farm (and not primarily for sale), you are not required to have fertilizer certification.

Do I need certification to apply fertilizer to turfgrass?

Certification is required only for sod production on more than 50 acres. Applications made to lawns, sports fields and golf courses are exempt from certification.

What records need to be kept?

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.

To become certified for agricultural fertilizer applications: Attend a **3-hour** class.

1. Attend a fertilizer certification training class offered by Ohio State University Extension. A schedule of classes can be found at nutrienteducation.osu.edu or by contacting your county OSU Extension office. Most classes are held January through March.

2. Complete and sign the fertilizer certification form at the end of the training class.

OR

Pass the fertilizer exam offered by the ODA
Call 614-728-6987 or visit agri.ohio.gov to schedule your exam.

3. If you have a pesticide license, you are done. If not, you will pay \$30 for the fertilizer applicator certification. The invoice for the certification fee will be sent to you by the ODA after you complete the fertilizer certification training class or pass the exam. You will need to recertify in fertilizer application every three years.

To recertify in agricultural fertilizer applications: Attend a **1-hour** recertification class every three years.

1. Attend a 1-hour recertification training offered by Ohio State University Extension **before your certification expires. Otherwise, you will need to re-test.** You will receive a mailing with your fertilizer recertification renewal that has a schedule of classes available, or you can visit nutrienteducation.osu.edu.

2. Complete and sign the recertification form at the end of the training class.

3. If you have a pesticide license, you are done. If not, you will pay a \$30 renewal fee every three years to maintain your certificate.