

Photo: Matthew Sullivan, The Ohio State University

**You are required to have a private pesticide applicator license if you purchase restricted-use pesticides or apply them to the following:**

- your own land or rented land to produce an agricultural commodity.
- other areas on your farm such as grain bins, ponds, livestock, etc.

**Do you need a license to apply fertilizer?**

Fertilizer applicator certification is separate from pesticide applicator licensing. Information regarding fertilizer certification is available at [nutrienteducation.osu.edu](http://nutrienteducation.osu.edu) or by contacting OSU Extension county offices.

Licensing is required to ensure applicators responsibly use restricted-use pesticides without causing harm to themselves, the public, or the environment.

**License Renewal and Recertification**

- License expires March 31<sup>st</sup> of the third year following licensure
- Pay \$30 to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) upon receipt of renewal letter
- attend 3 hours of recertification training (1 hour core, 1/2 hour each category)

**OR**

- Re-test in Core and each category on your license

*Recertification training is available through OSU Extension county programs. For a listing of programs, visit [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu) or your county OSU Extension office.*

For questions about study guides, recertification, and training opportunities, contact your county OSU Extension office or:

**Pesticide Safety Education Program**  
**Ohio State University Extension**  
614-292-4070 • [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu)



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**For questions about licensing and exams, contact:**

**Ohio Department of Agriculture**  
614-728-6987 • [agri.ohio.gov](http://agri.ohio.gov)



**OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

Pesticide Safety Education Program

**Ohio Private Pesticide Applicator License Requirements**



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# How to Become a Licensed Private Pesticide Applicator

Study guides for core and each category are available from OSU Extension county offices or at [pested.osu.edu](http://pested.osu.edu)

## Certification Categories

### Core

All applicators are required to take the Core exam in addition to their site-specific category. Core covers general safety for the applicator and the environment.

- Core Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 825-A)

### 1 - Grain and Cereal Crops

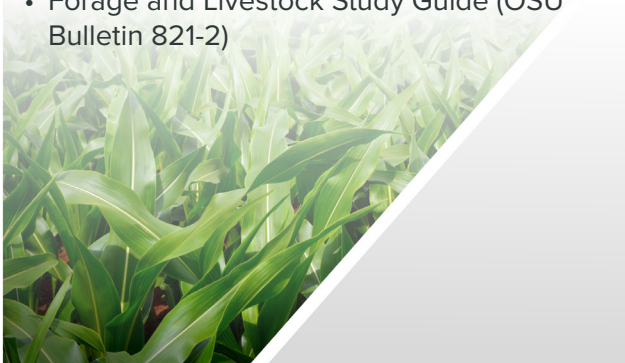
Agronomic field crops such as corn, grain, sorghums, other small grains, soybeans, and sweet corn

- Field Crops Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 821)

### 2 - Forage Crops and Livestock

Crops grown primarily for use as hay, forage, fodder, or ensilage, as well as applications to agricultural animals and their quarters.

- Forage and Livestock Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 821-2)



### 3 - Fruit and Vegetable Crops

Orchard fruit crops and small fruits including strawberries, brambles, and grapes. Also field-grown vegetables, sugar beets, sweet corn, and other horticultural crops grown primarily for human consumption.

- Fruit & Vegetable Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 821-3)

### 4 - Nursery and Forest Crops

Commercial nursery crops including trees, shrubs, grasses, and herbaceous plants produced for ornamental value or for future fruit production; also includes tree crops such as Christmas trees or for utilitarian value

- Nursery and Forest Crops Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 821-4)

### 5 - Greenhouse Crops

Crops grown under an impervious surface large enough to permit worker entry, including high tunnels and greenhouses

- Greenhouse Study Guide

### 6 - Fumigation

Application of restricted-use fumigants to soil, grain storage, greenhouse or any other confined areas

- Stored Grain Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 821-10)



### 7 - Specialty Uses\*

Specialty uses such as wood preservation, aquaculture, seed treatment, sod production, and controlling pests of tobacco, hops, ponds, and non-cropland areas. This category is not required if you have any other category on your license. There is no exam for this category, other than core

## Taking your Exams

- Study recommended material for Core and each desired category
- Schedule to take your exams: [agri.ohio.gov](http://agri.ohio.gov) or by calling ODA at 614-728-6987
- Send in a completed application form and \$30 license fee to ODA
- If you fail to pass your exam, you may schedule to re-take it as many times necessary to pass. You must wait 5 days between testing dates
- Upon passing the exams and receipt of the \$30 fee, ODA will mail you your license

