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 or by contacting OSU Extension county offices.

License Renewal and Recertification

- License expires March 31st 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 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

For questions about licensing and exams, contact:

Ohio Department of Agriculture
614-728-6987 • agri.ohio.gov
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

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 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