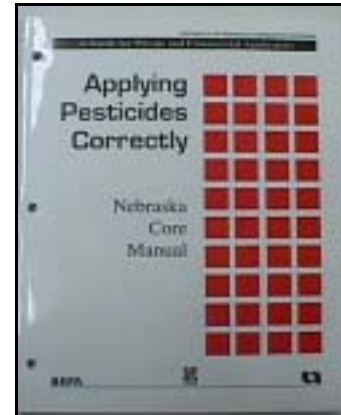


Certified Pesticide Applicator Training

Pesticide Safety Education Programs (PSEP) are the University of Nebraska's largest adult program. As a result of these educational programs, more than 27,000 private applicators (farmers) and 8,300 commercial/noncommercial applicators are licensed by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture statewide.

The Nebraska Pesticide Act mandates the role of Cooperative Extension as the education provider for this program. Since the certification period is three years in length, applicators must recertify by subsequent participation in PSEP, and by doing so become regular participants in this and other extension programs. The Pesticide Education Office, a component of the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, develops, coordinates, and conducts PSEP with assistance from Extension Educators statewide.



In Dodge County, approximately 35-40 commercial/non-commercial applicators, and 200-300 private applicators are trained each year.

Classifications of Pesticide Applicators

Private Applicator— a certified applicator who uses any restricted use pesticide for purposes of producing any agricultural commodity on property owned or rented by him/her or his/her employer, or if applied on the property of another person without compensation (other than trading of personal services between producers of agricultural commodities).

Commercial Applicator— a certified applicator who uses any restricted use pesticide on a contractual or "for hire" basis. Commercial applicator shall also include any person who applies lawn care or structural pest control restricted or general use pesticides to the land of another person "for hire" or compensation.

Noncommercial Applicator— a certified applicator who applies restricted use pesticides only on lands owned or controlled by his/her employer or for a governmental agency or subdivision of the state.

Categories of Commercial/Noncommercial Pesticide Applicators

- ◆ Agricultural Pest Control-Plant
- ◆ Agricultural Pest Control-Animal
- ◆ Fumigation of Soil
- ◆ Forest Pest Control
- ◆ Ornamental and Turf Pest Control
- ◆ Aquatic Pest Control
- ◆ Seed Treatment
- ◆ Right-of-Way Pest Control
- ◆ Structural & Health Related Pest Control
- ◆ Wood Destroying Organisms
- ◆ Fumigation
- ◆ Aerial Pest Control
- ◆ Wildlife Damage Control

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University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension

What We Do

Extension helps Nebraskans put knowledge to work. It provides a variety of educational opportunities, delivered via a variety of ways, so participants have knowledge they can use to make sound decisions to better their lives. Extension educators and specialists teach, facilitate and collaborate in providing research-based information to approximately 400,000 urban and rural Nebraska residents annually. A Nebraska mainstay since 1915, extension carries forward the land-grant university mission of taking the resources of the university to the state. As a trusted source of factual information today, extension is just as vital as ever, and perhaps even more so, because of the diverse, complex—and often confusing—issues people encounter.



Ornamental & Turf



Wood Destroying Organisms



Agricultural Pest Control- Plant

Applicators Gain Knowledge

Topics addressed during training include pesticide laws and regulations, pesticide safety, environmental protection, Integrated Pest Management, pesticides, and equipment. Extension Educators present topics including label information, personal protective equipment (PPE), reducing drift, and pesticide exposure prevention. PSEP programs are presented via video tape, classroom discussion, demonstration and self study formats.

In 2002 commercial/noncommercial applicators were surveyed about their participation in PSEP programs. Evaluations were completed by 470 commercial/noncommercial applicators. Participants were surveyed approximately 3 months after attending PSEP programs.

Commercial and noncommercial applicators indicated strong positive behavioral changes as a direct result of the University of Nebraska Pesticide Safety Education Programs.

- ◆69% indicated they would always calibrate equipment and calculate application rates
- ◆67% indicated they would always use personal protective equipment
- ◆58% indicated they would always check their spray equipment and nozzles for wear before use
- ◆43% indicated they would always use non-toxic control methods when appropriate
- ◆40% indicated they would use lower toxic products

Private pesticide applicators were also surveyed in 2002 about their participation in PSEP training programs. Evaluations were completed by 1,050 private applicators. The percent of applicators indicating they learned new information and their "learning points" are as follows:

- ◆85% of participants will monitor wind condition to evaluate drift potential
- ◆66% will use Integrated Pest Management to manage weeds, insects and diseases
- ◆65% will use wide angle, widely spaced nozzles and low boom heights to reduce pesticide drift

Associated Programs

Waste Pesticide Collection

Waste pesticide collection and disposal began in 1995, sponsored by UNL Cooperative Extension, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, US Environmental Protection Agency, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and the Nebraska Agri-Business Association. Grant funding was secured from the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Collections in Dodge County have resulted in proper disposal of the following amounts of waste pesticides.

- ◆ 1995 - 27,548 pounds
- ◆ 1999 - 20,243 pounds
- ◆ 2000 - 15,566 pounds

Seven years of collection statewide have resulted in the proper disposal of 1,697,671 pounds of waste pesticides.

PESTICIDE CONTAINER DISPOSAL

Unused pesticide container disposal was organized through UNL Cooperative Extension and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture in 1992, with sites now in 27 counties. Originally funded by grants from the US Environmental Protection Agency, the program has been financially self-sufficient since 1994.

From 1998 -2002 in Dodge, Burt, Cuming and Washington counties 31,408 used pesticide containers were recycled.

Helping People To Put Knowledge To Work