



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

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

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

Agricultural 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.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit [cfaesdiversity.osu.edu](http://cfaesdiversity.osu.edu). For an accessible format of this publication, visit [cfaes.osu.edu](http://cfaes.osu.edu)/accessibility.

**Recertification:**

Your private pesticide applicator license will expire every **three years** on March 31. Before the license expires, you will need to:

- Pay \$30 to the Ohio Department of Agriculture
- Attend 3 hours of recertification training

**OR**

Re-test in Core and each category on your license

Recertification training is available through OSU Extension county programs for a separate fee.

For a listing of programs, visit:

[pested.osu.edu/privaterecertification](http://pested.osu.edu/privaterecertification)  
or your county OSU Extension office.

You will receive a letter from ODA before your license expires reminding you to renew and attend recertification training (or retake the exams)

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

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



For questions about licensing and exams, contact:  
**Ohio Department of Agriculture**  
Phone: 614-728-6987  
Email: [pesticides@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:pesticides@agri.ohio.gov)  
Website: [agri.ohio.gov](http://agri.ohio.gov)



**Ohio Private Pesticide Applicator License Requirements**



# How to Become a Licensed Private Pesticide Applicator

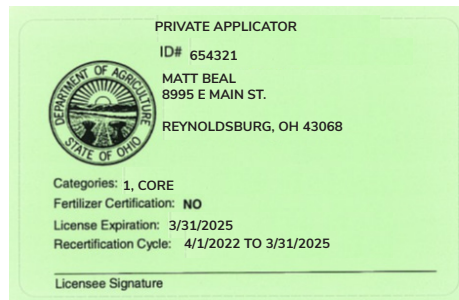
To become a licensed private pesticide applicator, you need to pass the Ohio pesticide exams

## Prepare for the exams:

- Start by getting the exam study materials
- You will need to take the Core exam and at least one category exam. Each category is specific to the crops you are raising

## Register and take the exams:

- The Ohio Dept. Of Agriculture (ODA) offers exams at locations throughout Ohio
- Register for an exam at [agri.ohio.gov](http://agri.ohio.gov), or by calling 614-728-6987
- ODA will send you a license application with your exam results
- Mail the completed application and \$30 license fee to ODA
- If you fail an exam, you must wait at least one week before retesting. Exams can be taken as many times as needed in order to pass
- ODA will mail your license after you pass the exams and send in the license fee



Above is an example private pesticide applicator license.

## Certification Categories:

### Private Core Exam\*\*

Ohio laws and regulations, pesticide label comprehension, safety procedures and equipment. Core is not a category. Everyone takes this exam.

- Core Study Guide (OSU Bulletin 825-A)
- [Pested.osu.edu/PrivCoreExamPrep](http://Pested.osu.edu/PrivCoreExamPrep)

### 1 - Grain and Cereal Crops\*\*

Agronomic field crops including corn, grain, sorghum, 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, and applications to livestock 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, 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 replanting for their ornamental value or for future fruit production; also tree crops produced for Christmas trees or 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 (OSU Bulletin 641-6D)

### 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, ponds, and non-cropland areas. Not needed if you hold any other category.

- No exam for this category other than Core

\*\*Study manuals for private core and categories 1 & 5 may be purchased at [extensionpubs.osu.edu](http://extensionpubs.osu.edu)

Your county extension office may stock private core and category 1 – call for availability

The study manuals for categories 2, 3, 4, and 6 are available for a free download at [pested.osu.edu/PrivStudyMaterials](http://pested.osu.edu/PrivStudyMaterials)

