



Private Pesticide Applicator News



Winter 2013-2014

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Vol. 1

Welcome

Hello from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's (NDA) pesticide program. You are likely aware that your private pesticide applicator license is issued by NDA, but because of great cooperation and assistance from the University of Nebraska, most of your knowledge of NDA comes from recorded videos and training from University Extension Educators. This newsletter is a small attempt to reach out to you, an important part of Nebraska's agriculture and the good life.

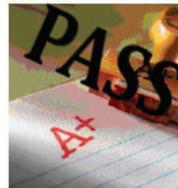
Your license is required by state statute (the Nebraska Pesticide Act) and by Federal law (the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act or FIFRA). These laws regulate the use and distribution of pesticides, which include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides – chemicals intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any pest. These substances are regulated with good reason: improper use can detrimentally impact not only the applicator, but potentially other people through direct or indirect exposure, as well as cause harm to wildlife or the environment.

It is the goal of the NDA pesticide program to assist you, the applicator, in complying with these laws, and the information presented here should help in that regard. Please take a minute to review this newsletter and feel free to call NDA, if there are questions.

Certification Requirements For Private Applicators

Anyone who applies a restricted-use pesticide must be licensed by NDA. There are two basic types of pesticide applicator licensing, either private or commercial.

Private Applicator Certification and Licensing is required of persons who apply restricted-use pesticides in the production of an agricultural commodity on their own property or property they rent or lease. To become certified, a private applicator must attend private applicator training, complete the self-study, or complete a private applicator exam. To become licensed, a private applicator must be certified and remit to NDA a \$25 fee for a three-year license. This \$25 fee is separate from what you may have paid the University for training.



For answers to questions about pesticide applicator certification call the NDA at (877) 800-4080.

Certification training tips

Private applicator certification must be renewed every three years. Renewal of private applicator certification may be done by either retesting, completing the self study, or by attending a University of Nebraska applicator training program. Trainings will be held in March and April.

Training materials for the exams are provided by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and are available online at pested.unl.edu. Or you may call

(800) 627-7216. Self-study materials are available at local extension offices.

Private applicators should bring their old license with them to training, even if it is expired. Currently, licensed applicators should receive a letter from NDA with a bar code below their name on the letter. This bar code letter should be brought to the UNL recertification meeting to help avoid filling out the longer license application. If you are new to the program or do not have the bar code letter, you will need to complete the full license application form. When filling out the full license form, it is important to remember our computer scanner cannot read ink, so using a pencil is required. Copy the information from your old license exactly as it is printed onto the license form, but make sure your current address is the one used on the form.

Please contact NDA, if you have any questions about certification, licenses, or payments at (877) 800-4080. All certification classes are coordinated by the UNL Pesticide Education Office - if you have questions about initial or recertification classes please contact them at (800) 627-7612.

Note: In order to receive our newsletter, and to get recertification info from the Pesticide Safety Education office at UNL prior to your license expiration, please let NDA know when you have a change of address.

Pesticide Program Brochures

NDA has four informational brochures describing various aspects of our certification and enforcement program. These will be available at various testing and training sessions, and are also available on the web at bit.ly/NDAPP.

- Pesticide Applicator Certification and Training – Answers to common questions about the certification and licensing of pesticide applicators in Nebraska.
- Which Pesticide Applicator License Do I need? – Answers to common questions about the types of pesticide applicators in Nebraska and how to obtain a license.
- The Pesticide Enforcement Process - Answers to common questions about routine inspections, complaint investigations, and penalties in Nebraska.



New Restrictions on Neonicotinoid Products for Pollinator Protection

If you've ever had flu-like symptoms after handling or applying pesticides, you understand that sublethal doses of some pesticides can greatly influence your behavior and thought processes.

Sub-lethal effects also occur in insects, and a great deal of attention is being given to researching the sub-lethal effects of insecticides (especially neonicotinoids) on honeybees.



Honeybees collect both nectar and pollen from plants and use it as food for their young. Pollen and nectar with small amounts of neonicotinoids have been shown to affect the learning ability and memory of honeybees. These impairments lead to reduced communication within the hive, less food being gathered, and dwindling colony strength. The bee's ability to ward off diseases is also impaired. At higher doses neonicotinoids can kill bees.

Neonicotinoids are used as seed treatments and as foliar sprays. Manufacturers are working to improve the adhesion of the seed treatments and are looking for better lubricants to use in pneumatic planters to reduce the amount of contaminated dust generated during planting. The dust lands on flowering plants, which then causes potential effects to foraging bees.

To protect honeybees from severe exposures EPA is adding new language to some neonicotinoid pesticide labels. A bee icon will be used to draw the user's attention to the pesticide's potential hazard to bees and the use restrictions will be found in the Directions for Use section. These restrictions will be found on products having the following three broad use sites, so both private and commercial applicators may be affected:

- For crops under contracted pollination services.

- For food crops and commercially grown ornamentals not under contract for pollination services, but are attractive to pollinators.
- Non-Agricultural Products

In addition, best management practices will be provided on pesticide labels to provide pesticide applicators with ideas of how they can minimize planter dust and spray drift which can cause bee kills. For more information, please consult the following web sites:

- 1.usa.gov/16UxxiN – EPA's Actions to Protect Pollinators
- go.usa.gov/jHH4 - New label restrictions
- bit.ly/1dNKKPF – Pesticide Environmental Stewardship, a national Extension effort

DriftWatch Update

Remember to visit the DriftWatch map (ne.driftwatch.org) to check for pesticide sensitive crops in your area. The number of growers and field sites has increased quite a bit in the last year. There is reason to believe this is still very much an understatement in the numbers of commercial pesticide sensitive crops out there, and there's a high likelihood that these numbers will increase in the future.

Approximately 30,000 people have a private or commercial applicator license, and the majority of these apply pesticides outdoors that potentially could impact neighboring sensitive crops. However, the number of applicators signed up in DriftWatch is small in comparison. NDA encourages all outdoor use applicators to sign up for DriftWatch notifications. Once registered, you will receive an e-mail whenever a sensitive crop is added to your 'business area', which could be a statewide, county, multiple county, or square mile area. This could benefit any applicator, not just licensed applicators. Simply go to the web link above and select 'applicators' on the header bar, and enter your contact information and draw your business area – it's easy!

Subscribe to the E-version of the Pesticide & Noxious Weed Newsletter!

NDA also publishes the Pesticide & Noxious Weed Newsletter for commercial pesticide applicators. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please follow the directions at this web site (bit.ly/v3pptg), and we will notify you of the next publication.

NDA Web Resources

The following NDA web pages may be of interest to you. Please take a minute to see what we have to offer, and don't hesitate to call or e-mail, if there are questions (simply type the text in parentheses in the address line of your web browser):

Noxious Weed Program (bit.ly/tlZ8CE)

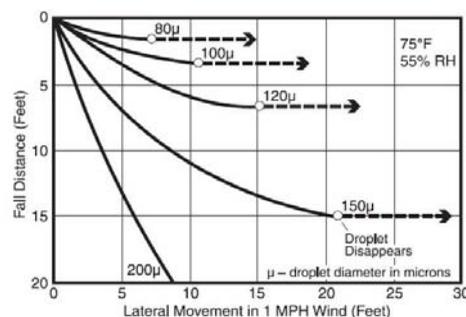
- Weeds of the Great Plains Order Form (bit.ly/uuHHf5)

Pesticide Program (bit.ly/NDAPP)

- Nebraska Buffer Strip Program (bit.ly/s3KxNn)
- Pesticide and Noxious Weed Newsletter (bit.ly/v3pptg)
- DriftWatch (ne.driftwatch.org)
- Household Hazardous Waste Directory (bit.ly/rxR9dC)
- Brochure – Which Applicator License Do I Need? (bit.ly/NDAwaldin)
- Brochure – Pesticide Enforcement Process (bit.ly/NDaenproc)

Ground Spray App for Reducing Drift

A new mobile app, Ground Spray, has been developed to assist ground rig applicators with decisions relating to spray droplet size and potential drift. Pesticide applicators can plug in application parameters for their pesticide applications and get the droplet size range that would be produced. Once they have that, they can estimate the potential for drift and adjust their application parameters appropriately. More info on this app can be found at bit.ly/groundspray.



(taken from bit.ly/1aIHwvQ)

Endangered Species Information at Your Fingertips

NDA encourages all applicators – private landowners and commercial/noncommercial applicators who apply pesticides outdoors - to consult threatened and endangered species information to reduce potential impacts from pesticides. Pesticides can have direct impacts on plants and animals, or can impact their habitat (food or cover, for example).

A USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) document (at bit.ly/NEtNespecies) contains links to state range maps and habitat descriptions for each species. In addition, the species list by county (**found at bit.ly/NEspbyCO**) will be helpful to know which species may be found in your area.

To determine if any species may potentially be found in your area, consult the county-species list for your county. For a given county-species combination, the range of the

given species covers some portion of the county (from all to very little). A quick check of the individual species map will let you know if it may be found near your application site.

Note that a species might be expected to occur anywhere within a mapped range having suitable habitat described in the species description. Some species, particularly highly mobile species, such as birds, may occur outside of their range in locations where the species is generally described as 'accidental' or 'vagrant.' These maps do not include such locations.

For applicators who do not have access to the Internet, please contact NDA, if you would like more information on potential endangered and threatened species in your area.

Weeds, Weeds, Weeds

Noxious and invasive weeds seem to be a never-ending battle for producers and applicators. Weeds are tough and will grow in landscapes, lawns, gardens, farms, ranches, roadsides, and in between.

Troublesome weeds are usually introduced (non-native), meaning they are brought here on purpose or by accident. Most weeds have natural enemies which help to keep them under control. These introduced plants don't always have their natural enemies, which allows the plant to thrive and possibly over populate.

Controlling these weeds can be a daunting task, but applying control measures at the correct time will gain you excellent results. Landowners and applicators need to identify the correct control measures and timing. Treatments can reduce the infestation level and may prevent some seed production. Follow-up treatment will be needed, especially during the correct period.

Scouting areas known to be infested with these weeds can pay great rewards. This also provides an opportunity to spot treat small and isolated infestations. One may be able to control a few unwanted plants by digging or cutting plants growth stage and life cycle.

For assistance contact your local County Weed Control Superintendent.

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Plant Health Protection
P.O. Box 94756
Lincoln, NE 68509-4756

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LINCOLN, NE
PERMIT NO. 212

Department of Agriculture
Noxious Weed Program
(402) 471-2351

Department of Agriculture
Pesticide/Fertilizer Program
(402) 471-2351

**Certification/License Questions:
(877) 800-4080**

This newsletter is available in other formats for persons with disabilities upon request. For an alternate format or for additional information on topics in this publication, please call the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at (402) 471-2351.

TDD users can contact the Department by first calling the Nebraska Relay System. Telephone (800) 833-7352 and asking the operator to call (402) 471-2351.

Greg Ibach, Director
Craig Romary, Editor

This newsletter is posted on NDA's web page shortly after it is published. If you would rather view it on-line instead of receiving a hard copy, please follow the directions at the web site listed below, and we will notify you of the next publication.

Website: bit.ly/NDAPPnews

Readers are free to reprint, in whole or part, information in this newsletter. However, NDA respectfully requests the following citation be used:

Reprinted from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Pesticide & Noxious Weed Newsletter (www.nda.nebraska.gov)

Articles from other sources are often used in this newsletter, and should be cited accordingly.

