



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Plant Health / Pesticide and Fertilizer Regulation Section
8995 East Main Street – Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: (614) 728-6987 Fax: (614) 728-4235
www.agri.ohio.gov pesticides@agri.ohio.gov



General Information for Program Sponsors

Introduction: Licensed pesticide applicators in Ohio are given the opportunity to obtain pesticide recertification credits to keep their applicator license current in lieu of retaking the license examinations. Because the recertification credits are in lieu of testing, the Ohio Department of Agriculture requires that the recertification credits be offered in a credible, educational program that updates the applicator in responsible use of pesticide products. The recertification credits are an extension of the public trust that applicators are meeting requirements set by U.S. EPA for risk mitigation of pesticide products.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture will require potential vendors of recertification credits to register as a program sponsor. Once approved as a program sponsor, the vendor may submit programs for recertification credit. Each individual program will be reviewed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to verify that the program content meets recertification criteria and is presented by credible speakers. All programs are open to audit by a representative of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Potential sponsors: must fill out a form *only once* outlining their goals and objectives for the pesticide *educational* applicator-training program. Achieving program sponsor status does not guarantee approval for programs.

Affiliation of Sponsor: governmental and non-governmental agency, professional association, accredited school, grower group and other deemed appropriate.

What will not be approved: Non-public, in-house training for employees and customer presentations promoting products do not meet the criteria of this EPA-mandated program. The Pesticide applicator-training program is a federal and state risk reduction program designed to ensure protection of human health and the environment. In addition, the continued availability of products for industry use is based on the assumptions: 1) that applicators are receiving up-to-date, unbiased information on proper use and risk reduction measures in accordance with the label and laws and, 2) training meets EPA standards and is provided by qualified trainers. Programs conducted by experts in a public venue reassure the public that applicators are receiving appropriate information and maintain the public trust. This helps ensure that applicators are not being taught shortcuts, cost-saving methods or sales techniques that may be ethically questionable for responsible pesticide use.

Guidelines for Class Trainers and Speakers

Use of credible speakers: people considered to have public recognition and expertise in their area. This includes University researchers and teachers, USDA and independent researchers, technical experts within industry. Sponsors **can not** use only their employees or distributors exclusively to deliver credible training. However, credible in-house training staff may deliver 25% of the program. Distributors are also permitted within the 25% parameter providing the training is educational and not focused on commercial sales. Sales presentations will not be approved for credit. The remaining program speakers must be credible speakers **NOT** affiliated with the business or its distributor.

Guidelines for In-house Training

In-house training All in-house training must open to the public. The fees for training must be the same for everyone attending. The speakers must all follow the recertification criteria.

Descriptions:

Distributor– one who obtains profits from *selling* pesticides

Pesticide Business– one who obtains profits from the *application of pesticides*

Distributor + Pesticide Business – one who obtains profits from the *selling and applying of pesticides* **Educational Facility**- a facility built or designated for education purposes only (i.e. fumigant lab, computer lab, or spray lab).

Distributors are eligible to submit a request form for recertification credits and perform in house training programs if they meet all of ODA's requirements and have a specific designated educational facility at their place of business, which is in house training.

Pesticide Businesses and Distributors + Pesticide businesses all in-house training must be conducted at a neutral site not at a place of business and must be open to the public, including competitors. The speakers must follow all recertification criteria.



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Listing of Guidelines

Guidelines for Sponsor

1. Must become approved training sponsor (Complete paper work and send to ODA one time only)
2. Must be added to approved sponsor listing (When application is received by ODA)
3. Must show how program meets criteria
4. Must be focused on education, credible programs
5. Must show affiliation
6. Program may be audited at any time by ODA staff

Training Program Format

1. Must be open to public
2. Must have a registration process
3. Must have an agenda (description of subjects)
4. Must show how agenda items fits the core or category topics
5. Must have contact information (name, address and phone)
6. Must have speaker information (bios)
7. Must have location information (name, address)

Guidelines for Speakers

1. University researchers, specialist, educators, and staff
2. USDA
3. Independent researchers
4. Technical experts (within industry)
5. Technical experts (public sector)
6. In-house company technical experts (allowed 25% of program)
7. In-house company distributor technical expert (included in 25% of in-house program with company technical)
8. Others who meet criteria

Guidelines for Time

1. 1/2 hour of credit will be given for 30 minutes of time
2. 1 hour of credit will be given for 60 minutes of time
3. Programs must be at least 2 hours in length
4. Core topics must be 1 hour in length

Guidelines for In-house Company Training

1. The Location of pesticide businesses and distributors + pesticide businesses in house training must be at neutral site
2. Distributors are eligible to perform in house training if they have a specific designated educational facility at their place of business or property owned by the business
3. Program fees for recertification programs must be the same for everyone attending



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Recertification Approved Topics

Introduction: Licensed pesticide applicators in Ohio are given the opportunity to obtain pesticide recertification credits to keep their applicator license current in lieu of retaking the license examinations. Because the recertification credits are in lieu of examination, the Ohio Department of Agriculture requires that the recertification topics are offered in a credible, educational program that updates the applicator in responsible use of pesticide products.

Core – these topics are appropriate for core training:

- Pesticide laws and regulations
- Pesticide record keeping
- Endangered species
- Equipment calibration
- Personal protective equipment
- How to read and follow a pesticide label
- Pesticide spill response
- Concepts of integrated pest management (IPM)
- Preventing pesticide exposure
- Environmental impacts of pesticide use
- Pesticide security and storage
- Drift
- Pesticides and human health (safety, toxicity, first aid, etc.)
- Pesticide calculations
- Pesticide mode of action
- Pesticide formulations

Example of topics that will not be approved: fertilization, irrigation, pruning and aerating unless these topics are presented from a standpoint of requiring less use of pesticides, as an element of IPM or promotion of healthy, pest resistant plants. Management issues such as OSHA and other compliance programs **WILL NOT** be approved.

Categories – these topics will be approved for category training:

- Identification, biology and life cycle of pests
- Appropriate control measures
- Integrated pest management
- Review of products commonly used in specific category
- Update involving new control strategies with pesticides and new pesticide products

Example of topics that will not be approved: topics that focus on production of the crop that do not include pesticide use or pest management such as fertilization, irrigation, pruning, aerating, landscape planting, etc.