



Wheat Science News

Research & Education Center
Princeton, KY 42445



Changes to CEU Requirements for Commercial Applicators in 2023

Ric Bessin—Extension Entomologist

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New laws and regulations governing the sale, use, and storage of pesticides as well as changes to training and certification standards were approved earlier this year and will be implemented in 2023. This is the most significant change to the program since 1978. While in September I outlined some of the more important changes for the Private and Commercial Applicator Programs with two Kentucky Pest News articles, in this article I explore changes to the CEU requirements for commercial applicators and how these changes can affect recertification and relicensing.

New Category Structure and Recertification

Beginning in 2023, there will be fewer commercial categories, several have been consolidated or split and a few have been eliminated. In terms of those that have been consolidated, the old categories 3 (Lawn and Ornamental), 18 (Golf Course), 19 (Interior Plantscape Pest Control), and 20 (Athletic Turf) will be consolidated into the new Category 3; Turf, Lawn, and Ornamental Care. People certified in any of those 4 categories will be issued a new Category 3 certification without having to retest. The previous fumigation categories of 1b (Ag Fumigation) and 7b (Structural Fumigation) have been separated into the new categories of Category 7b (Structural Fumigation), Category 12 (Soil Fumigation), and Category 13 (Non-Soil Fumigation). This new Category 13 covers fumigation of structures which are not habitable such as grain bins and grain cars, while Category 7b, Structural Fumigation, also addresses fumigation of habitable structures. Persons holding current Category 1b certification will be certified in both Categories 12 and 13 without having to retest. The categories being eliminated are 12 (Pesticide Retail Sales Agent), 13 (Anti-Fouling Marine Paint), 14 (Consultant), 15 (Anti Microbial), and 16 (Sewer Root Control). While retail pesticide sales agents will not be certified, the business must be registered and maintain and submit necessary records to the KDA.

General CEUs Eliminated

In the past, commercial applicators had to accrue 9 general and 3 category-specific CEU credits by the end of their third year of the certification period to be eligible to recertify. With the new system, they need to earn 12 CEU credits with at least one

being in each of the categories they are certified in. So, applicators do not need to keep track of general and category-specific CEU hours. In order to deliver the general information to commercial applicators, presenters applying for CEU credit will need to identify what general pesticide safety and use educational material they will cover in their presentation in order to receive approval.

Annual CEU Requirement

However, what has changed is that *each year with relicensing* (licenses are valid for one year and certifications last for 3 years), applicators must have 12 CEUs earned in the previous 3 years. In the past, applicators only had to meet this requirement when they recertified every 3 years. This is to ensure that applicators receive more frequent pesticide updates. For people that have just taken the test and passed, they will be awarded 12 CEU hours that first year which will cover that requirement until they recertify in 3 years. My recommendation is to have applicators get into the habit of earning at least 4 CEU each year in order to meet this requirement.

License Renewal Grace Period Shortened

In the past, commercial applicators had 90 days to pay the annual fee and renew their licenses online. That grace period has been shorted to 31 days past the expiration of the license. Persons not renewing their license before the end of the 30-day period will not be able apply pesticides and will have to pay their license fee, a late fee penalty, and may have to retest

Penalty for not Earning CEUs

Commercial applicators that have not earned the necessary 12 CEUs in the previous 3 years will need to retest and will be subject to a \$200 recertification fee. This is to encourage commercial applicators to stay up to date in their areas by earning CEU credits. The best practice for applicators will be to earn at least 4 CEU hours each year and for persons organizing training sessions for pesticide education credit to offer at least 4 CEU hours.

KATS: Kentucky Agriculture Training School

The Kentucky Agriculture Training School (KATS) has several trainings scheduled for 2023, and more are being discussed. KATS trainings are interactive and hands on workshops held in small groups that provide valuable information regarding crop management and production. Information and registration links will be updated on the website (kats.ca.uky.edu) and you can also contact Lori Rogers (lori.rogers@uky.edu) with questions or to receive notifications about each training.



February 23: In-Depth Mode of Action

March 9: Soil Fertility and Assessment

May 18: Crop Scouting Clinic

June 7-8: Drone Pilot Certification Prep Course

July 13: Spray Clinic

2023 Winter Wheat Meeting

James E Bruce Convention Center
303 Conference Center Dr., Hopkinsville, KY 4224

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Changes To The Pesticide Applicator Programs In 2023
- ▶ Managing Important Wheat Diseases With Fungicides
- ▶ Kentucky Weather And Climate Outlook, Trends, And Monitoring
- ▶ Improving IPM For Insect Control For Stored Grains
- ▶ Economics Of Fungicide Application Timing
- ▶ Soil Fertility Update, The Latest Research
- ▶ Weed Control In Winter Wheat Update
- ▶ Wheat Crop Condition Update
- ▶ Wheat Issues On The National Front

 University of
Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Grain and Forage
Center of Excellence

January 5, 2023
9 am—3 pm CT
Registration 8:30 CT

Approved Credits:

CCA: NM 0.5, SW 0.5, PM 1.0, CM 0.5

Pesticide credits pending approval.



For additional information email claurent@uky.edu

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification

Changes to the Private Pesticide Applicator Program in 2023

Ric Bessin—Extension Entomologist

In December of 2016, the EPA published the final rule to improve pesticide applicator certification and training standards. Implementation of this plan has been plagued by delays, but our new plan for Kentucky has been reviewed and approved and we are set to begin using it at the start of 2023. This is the most significant change to the program since 1978. There are some significant changes in how we operate the program that I will outline in this article.

Age and Identity

Only persons 18 and older are qualified to become private applicators. The EPA requires that applicators present a government issued photo ID in order for county agents to verify their age and identify. County agents must use this to verify age and identity, but do not need to record this information. For those that do not have a government issued photo ID due to some specific reasons, there are some alternative methods of verification that can be used.

Non-certified Applicator (NCA) Under Direct Supervision of a Certified Applicator

A new category of applicator has been created to work under the supervision of certified private applicators on farms. This is the “Non-certified Applicator under the Direct Supervision of a Certified Applicator.” These applicators must be trained annually and be supervised while applying general use pesticides. They cannot apply restricted use pesticides. There are a number of responsibilities for the supervising certified applicator beyond training and supervision. While any certified applicator can conduct the annual training of non-certified applicators, there is specific content that must be covered in each annual training. We are developing a Non-Certified Applicator card that can be issued from the county office for NCAs to carry to verify their training.

Fumigation and Aerial Application Training

The EPA now requires specialized training and certification for fumigation and aerial applications. As such, applicators using fumigation or applying pesticides aerially, either manned aircraft or drone applications, will need to be certified in the appropriate commercial category. Through KY statues, farmers applying general use pesticides to their own land or land they rent using ground equipment are exempt from needing to become certified private applicators, but this exemption does not apply to aerial applications. So, drone applications of any type of pesticide must be done by category 11 applicators. Persons using fumigation will need to certify in one of the commercial categories for fumigation depending on what they are treating; soil, non-soil or structures.

Terms of Certification

The KDA has brought the length of the certification for private applicators in line with commercial applicators. Both of these groups will be certified for up to three years which includes the year they were trained. Previously, private applicators were given three years plus the year they were trained in. There is no fee charged to those certified as private applicators.

New Core Competency Standards

Core competencies for private applicators have been expanded to include 11 core competency areas: label comprehension and understanding, understanding of pesticide safety, understanding of how to protect the environment, recognizing common pests and diseases, knowledge of characteristics of pesticides, understanding of pesticide application equipment and calibration, knowledge of pesticide laws and regulations, responsibilities of supervisors of non-certified applicators, pesticide safety and professionalism, and general knowledge of agricultural pest control. Persons becoming private applicators are expected to meet these core competency requirements.

Save the Date

Southern Cover Crops Council's conference will be held in Baton Rouge, LA in February 14 & 15, 2023. There is limited free registration for producers, on a first-come-first-served basis. See the site below for more information, including registration. You can also contact Erin Haramoto (erin.haramoto@uky.edu)



Southern Cover Crop Council

www.southerncovercrops.org

SCCC Conference

**February 14-15, 2023
Baton Rouge, LA**



The SCCC Conference will provide farmers, crop consultants, extension agents, and other professionals with the latest information on cover crop management in the southern region

Register at

sites.google.com/ncsu.edu/scccconference2023/home

2022 Kentucky Wheat Yield Contest Winners

Chad Lee — Extension Grain Crops Agronomist

The 2022 Kentucky Wheat Yield Contest Winners have been identified. S & J Emmick of Hancock County harvested 132.68 bushels per acre. Camron Clay and Mark Wells from Union County are State Champions for the Tillage division at 121.91 bushels per acre.

The Area Winners reported yields ranging from 113.07 to 123.47 bushels per acre. Area winners include Rudy Hall in Todd County for Area 1, Tanner Shroup of First Class Farms in Hancock County for Area 2, Walnut Grove Farms in Logan County for Area 3, and Peterson Farms with a field in Mercer County for Area 4. All the area winners were no-tillage.

Curt Judy won the Supervisor Award for most entries with four. Curt also won for the highest top-three average yields supervised at 118.82 bushels per acre. Clint Hardy, Katie Hughes, Matt Futtrell and Evan Tate also supervised multiple entries.

Awards will be given to each winner at the 2023 Kentucky Commodity Conference in Bowling Green, KY on Thursday, January 19, 2023. More information about the Commodity Conference can be found at this website: <http://www.kycommodityconference.org/>.

For the winners, wheat planting occurred between October 7 and October 27, 2021 in 7.5-inch rows. Seed rates ranged from 1.2 to 1.8 million seeds per acre or 147 to 170 lbs seed per acre. Five wheat varieties comprised the six winning entries: Pioneer 25R29 (two entries: Overall highest yield and Area 3 winner), AgriMaxx 505 (Tillage State Champion), AgriMaxx 512, Croplan 9203, and AgriMaxx 454.

Winning farmers who applied nitrogen in the fall, applied a range from 9 to 41 lb N per acre. Winning farmers applied winter rates ranging from 103 to 160 lb N per acre and total N rates (fall, winter, and spring applications) ranged from 69 to 167 lb N per acre. Phosphorus applications ranged from 30 to 150 lb P₂O₅ per acre and potassium applications ranged from 30 to 150 lb K₂O per acre. Four of the six winners applied sulfur in a range of 5.5 to 45 lb S per acre. One winner applied 2 tons per acre of chicken litter and four winners used Palisade growth regulator.

Winning farmers used herbicide programs including Roundup followed by Quelex, Harmony only (2 entries), Roundup followed by Pixxaro, Zidua SC + Tarzec + 2,4-D LV6, and Fierce + Roundup Powermax + Harmony. All winners reported using fungicides. Fungicide programs included Miravis Ace only (3 entries), and either Fitness, Approach Prima, or TopGuard followed by Miravis Ace. Insecticide programs included Warrior, Fastac, Lampcap II (3 entries), and Warrior followed by Lamda Cy.

Results:

<https://graincrops.ca.uky.edu/files/2022wheatcontestwinners.pdf>

Kentucky Crop Health Conference

Feb. 9, 2023 - National Corvette Museum - Bowling Green, Ky.

Speakers include University of Kentucky Extension Specialists
and invited nationally prominent Extension Specialists from across the United States



Travis Faske
University of Arkansas
Topic: Frontline Tactics to Manage Southern Rust of Corn



Kelly Hamby
University of Maryland
Topic: Managing insect pests of grain using neonicotinoid seed treatments



Larry Steckel
University of Tennessee
Topic: Managing glyphosate-resistant and hard to kill grasses in Tennessee

Kiersten A. Wise
University of Kentucky
Topic: Tar spot in Kentucky: Is it time to panic?



Carl Bradley
University of Kentucky
Topic: What we have learned from nearly 2 decades of research on foliar fungicides of soybean

Travis Legleiter
University of Kentucky
Topic: Management of Italian ryegrass in a Kentucky grain crop rotation



Raul Villanueva
University of Kentucky
Topic: Mollusks: Frequency, biological control, and management in soybeans



Scan QR Code to register or visit:
<https://kentuckycrophealthconference2023.eventbrite.com>

Registration ends Feb. 1, 2023

Limited to 100 participants — Lunch included — CCA and KY Pesticide Applicator credits available

Upcoming Events



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| DEC 13 | UK 2022 Crop Pest Management Webinar Series Entomological Studies in Corn & Soybeans Under Difficult Circumstances in 2022 |
| JAN 5 | 2023 UK Winter Wheat Meeting |
| JAN 19 | 2023 KY Commodity Conference - Bowling Green |
| JAN 19 | KATS In-depth Mode of Action |
| FEB 09 | Kentucky Crop Health Conference |
| FEB 09 | KATS Soil Fertility and Assessment |
| MAR 09-11 | 2023 National Commodity Classic - Orlando FL |
| MAY 09 | UK Wheat Field Day |
| MAY 18 | KATS Crop Scouting Clinic |
| JUN 07-08 | KATS Drone Pilot Certification Prep Course |
| JUN 29 | Pest Management Field Day |
| JUL 13 | KATS Spray Clinic |
| JUL 25 | UK Corn, Soybean and Tobacco Field Day |