



Private Pesticide Applicator Initial Training

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Location: Great Falls College MSU, 2100 16th Avenue S, Great Falls, MT 59405, Room B101. New applicators are required to have training materials which include the core manual and addendum. Registration is due to the MSU Extension-Cascade County office by Wednesday, April 16. Call (406) 454-6980 for a registration form.

8:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Montana Private Applicator License (30 minutes); Jesse Fullbright, MSU Extension-Liberty County. Pesticide definition, classifications, importance of the pesticide license number, recertifying, pesticide fees, rules, and restrictions.

9:00 a.m. Reading the Pesticide Product Label (30 minutes); Jesse Fullbright, MSU Extension-Liberty County. How and when to utilize the pesticide product label, active versus inert ingredients, signal words, restricted entry intervals (REI), pesticide product rate (going above or below product rate), pesticide storage, disposal, and importance of crop/site locations.

9:30 a.m. Pesticides in the Environment (60 minutes); Jenn Swanson, MSU Extension-Teton County. Pesticide properties regarding environmental contamination, solubility, adsorption, drift, valorization, leaching, runoff, water contamination, degradation, pesticide behavior in soil, and how nozzles/pressure contribute to drift.

10:30 a.m.: Break

10:45 a.m.: Pesticide Laws (60 minutes); Jake Degenstein, Montana Department of Agriculture. Worker Protection Standards (WPS), FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Montana Pesticides Act, Montana laws/regulations, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES), federal record keeping requirements (key elements you need to record and how to use calibration formulas to help you keep accurate records.)

11:45 p.m.: Lunch

12:15 p.m.: Integrated Pest Management (60 minutes); Kari Lewis, MSU Extension-Glacier County. Integrated pest management definition, benefits of integrated pest management, economics thresholds, economic injury levels, monitoring techniques, pest identification, control methods (chemical, cultural, biocontrol, transgenic, and mechanical), resistance, and resistance management.

1:15 p.m.: Pesticide Safety (90 minutes); Amy Bowser, MSU Extension Pesticide Education Technician. Toxicity definition (acute versus chronic), four routes of exposure, pesticide formulations, applicator safety (liquid versus dry formulations), LD₅₀, signal words, how humans process toxic substances, personal protective equipment (PPE), laundering pesticide contaminated clothing, proper pesticide storage, procedures in event of poisoning, and sprayer/equipment cleaning.

2:45 p.m.: Break

3:00 p.m.: Calibration of Backpack, Boom, and Broadjet Sprayers (90 minutes); Tyler Lane, MSU Extension-Chouteau County. Determine output of sprayers (GPA), determine nozzle output, how to read a nozzle specification sheet, understanding the effects of speed and pressure, how many acres can you spray with a given volume, how much pesticide product do you add to the tank, how much pesticide solution do you add to the tank, useful conversions (pints to ounces, gallons to ounces, etc.), using calibration formulations to help you keep pesticide records, and calibration exercises.

4:30 p.m. Applicator Certification Review and Exam; Rose Malisani, MSU Cascade County Extension

5:00 p.m. Adjournment