

south dakota department of agriculture Pesticide Applicator Newsletter

Winter 2002/2003 Issue 26



2002 Commercial Applicator Recertification Training

Commercial applicators should have received a certification and licensing packet from the Department of Agriculture in mid-December. Included was a listing of individual certification categories and the expiration date for those categories. This information will help you decide whether or not you need to attend a session and which location to attend. Instructions were also included in the packet for the pre-registration system.

Notices were mailed to the most recent address we have on record. If you have a change of address, it is your responsibility to notify the department.

Please check the expiration date on your license. If it expires on February 28, 2003, you must submit your renewal by March 1, 2003 to avoid late fees. Some of the training locations will have limited categories. The certification and licensing packet will contain a program listing the categories presented at each location. Check your certification needs and be sure to attend the appropriate location.

Following are the dates and locations of the commercial sessions.

Ground Applicator Recertification

Aberdeen	Wednesday, January 22, 2003	Ramkota Inn
Watertown	Thursday, January 23, 2003	Ramkota Inn
Brookings	Friday, January 24, 2003	Brookings Inn
Mitchell	Monday, January 27, 2003	Holiday Inn
Rapid City	Tuesday, January 28, 2003	Ramkota Inn
Pierre	Wednesday, January 29, 2003	Ramkota Inn
Yankton	Friday, January 31, 2003	Best Western Inn
Sioux Falls	Monday, February 3, 2002	The Oakes

Aerial Applicator Convention and Recertification

Pierre Monday – Wednesday, February 17-19, 2003 Ramkota Inn

Categories G, 1A, 1B, 1C and 7 presented at aerial recertification are specifically targeted to aerial applicators.

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ENFORCEMENT UPDATES

SD Department of Agriculture
523 E Capitol Ave – Foss Building
Pierre, SD 57501-3182
Phone 605/773-4432
Fax 605/773-3481
www.state.sd.us/doa/das

From The Department...

Private Applicator Recertification Training

Private pesticide applicators should contact their local county extension educator for information on private applicator recertification training dates and locations. Training information can also be accessed on the web at http://plantsci.sdstate.edu/PAT/patdates/pest_list.cfm.

Those private applicators with access to the internet can get certified or renew their certification by taking the private applicator exam online. The exam is available through the Department of Agriculture's web site. The internet address to access the private applicator site is www.state.sd.us/doa/das/pwt.

Pesticide Application Reporting Q & A
Remember 2002 pesticide application data must be reported by February 28, 2003. If you fail to report your data, your commercial license will not be issued. Application data needs to be summarized for each month, but can be entered in less frequently.

Q. After I enter my data and press 'save and review' or 'save and search for a new pesticide a "MICROSOFT JET DATABASE ENGINE ERROR" appears and the data is not saved. Why is this happening?

A. We have found that if one puts a comma in the number (such as **100,000** square feet in TOTAL AREA, the AREA box), a Microsoft error message will popup and the data will not be saved. Simply remove the comma and press 'save and review' to check the application.

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Internet Pre-Registration System for Commercial Applicators



The state's e-commerce system, designed as an easy-to-use web site, will be used again this year for pre-registration to the commercial applicator meetings and for payment of training and licensing.

The system allows individuals or companies to sign up for classes in one or more locations. A company can pre-register for training and pay for licensing for all of the individuals under their employment. A printable receipt details what they purchased along with the location and dates registered for. Users will need to use a MasterCard or Visa credit card for payment.

Users can use either the individual or company options available. The individual option asks for the applicator's id number, which is the barcode number on their license. The system then shows which categories they need to recertify in and which locations offer the categories. Next, they will need to select a location and the classes they plan to attend and finally pay for their classes and licensing with one payment.

The company option is similar to the individual

option, but the company can enter in its name and see all the employees associated with it. The company will then be able to select which individuals will attend class, where they will attend and pay for the classes along with the licensing for all employees.

In both cases, after payment is approved online, the user will be automatically directed to a receipt page that will detail their billing and the user will be able to print out a receipt for their records.

The two main advantages to this system are that at the end of the process, each applicator or company will pay only once for both the training fee and license fee and it provides the applicators with a better, more convenient service. Detailed instructions will be included in the pre-registration packet that will be sent out in mid-December.

The internet address to access the pre-registration is located on the Department of Agriculture's web page at www.state.sd.us/doa/das/ecat/index.htm. If applicators do not have internet access, the local extension office or library will be able to provide internet access. Please contact the Department of Agriculture with any questions at 605/773-4432.

2002 Unusable Pesticide Collections

The Unusable Pesticide collections were held during the month of October at 4 sites across the state. The total amount of products collected was 26,312 pounds. There were 142 registrants that attended the collections or arranged to have their pesticides picked up by the department. Since 1992, over 318,000 lbs. of unusable pesticides in South Dakota have been properly disposed of through this program.

2002 Collection Site Totals: Registrants Attending

Rapid City	5868 lbs.	27
Pierre	9853 lbs.	45
Huron	3461 lbs.	32
Brookings	7130 lbs.	38
Totals	26312 lbs.	142



2002 Pesticide Container Collections

The Pesticide Container collections were held in July and August at 31 sites across the state. There were a total of 46,972 containers collected at the 31 sites. All containers were taken to two permanent collection sites in Pierre or Vermillion to be granulated. Since the program began in 1992, over 445,000 containers have been collected and recycled.

(Pesticide Application Reporting Q & A continued from page 2)

We have also found that if one puts data into both the AREA and the VOLUME box, a similar message will pop-up and the data will not be saved. The database will not accept data in both boxes. Choose either AREA or VOLUME and press 'save and review' to check the application.

Q. I have an application tank mix of 2,4-D and Tordon how will I put this application in the database?

A. Record the information for one of the pesticides and then at the bottom of the screen choose 'save and copy this application with another pesticide' then choose the second pesticide. The screen brings up your newly selected pesticide, plus the other information from the first pesticide application. Just change the information that is different from the first pesticide (in the appropriate boxes) and save the application.

Q. The dropdown boxes do not contain the information I need to correctly fill out the box on the screen. Should I write my particular application information in the IF OTHER, PLEASE LIST BOX?

A. Only choose the IF OTHER, PLEASE LIST BOX as a last resort. Most all of the applications we have seen so far will fit in one of the dropdown box selections. One good example is - Where does one put "fallow" when working on CROP/COMMODITY TREATED, choose NONE and then under SITE TREATED select CROPLAND - NON GMO.

Q. What is the internet site address for reporting the 2002 Pesticide Application Summary Data we are required to submit?

A The site is located at www.state.sd.us/doa/das. Then click on 'NEW! Report 2002 Pesticide Application Summary Data Here' located just under the 10 rectangular boxes.

USDA Defines Organic Food

The USDA recently announced new organic label standards to help define the term organic. Before USDA developed these rules, states or individual companies set their own rules for what could be labeled as organic. Therefore, what was called organic in one state was not necessarily called organic in another state.



The new USDA definition of organic includes:

- Crops are grown on land that has not been fertilized with sewage sludge or chemical fertilizers.
- Pests and diseases are treated with non-chemical methods such as insect predators, traps and/or natural repellants.
- Weeds are controlled with non-chemical methods such as mulching, mowing, weeding or mechanical cultivation.
- Products are not genetically engineered or irradiated to kill bacteria or other harmful microorganisms.
- Meat, poultry, and eggs that are from animals who were not given growth hormones or antibiotics. Vitamins and mineral supplements are allowed. Livestock must be fed organic feed and live in conditions that allow for exercise, movement, and reduction of stress.

The USDA Organic Seal tells consumers that a product is at least 95 percent organic. Products with 70-95 percent organic ingredients can say so on the label (made with organic fruit, for example) but they can't display the seal.

Biotech Industry Changes Mind on GM Ban

In October, the U.S. biotech industry announced it would voluntarily stop growing some genetically modified crops in areas of the Midwest and Great Plains to ease fears of accidental contamination of food or animal feed. The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) said its members agreed to plant crops bioengineered for pharmaceutical and industrial purposes far away from their traditional counterparts.

Then in early December, the BIO, issued a new policy stating that its members would instead defer to federal regulators to determine planting restrictions or setbacks for GM crops.

“We have revised our policy because we don't want to encourage discrimination against certain parts of the country. Issuing field permits and establishing growing conditions in the U.S. is the primary responsibility of the appropriate federal agencies,” said Lisa Dry, a spokeswoman for BIO.

A few U.S. biotech companies are field testing pharmaceutical crops in the hopes of marketing them in the future.

The originally banned area was the Corn Belt, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, most of Missouri and parts of Ohio, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kentucky.

Useful Websites



Following are a list of the websites mentioned in this newsletter. Be sure to add these to your Favorites.

www.state.sd.us/doa/das – Department of Agriculture, Division of Ag Services (links to Commercial Applicator Pre-registration, Online Pesticide Reporting, Pesticide Recycling, Unusable Pesticide Collections)

http://plantsci.sdstate.edu/pat.patdates/pest_list.cfm – Private Applicator Training Dates

www.state.sd.us/doa/das/pwt – On-line Private Applicator Test

www.state.sd.us/doa/das/ecat/index.htm – Commercial Applicator Pre-registration Page

www.epa.gov – Environmental Protection Agency

www.usda.gov – United States Department of Agriculture

Off-label Pesticide Misuse

“Read the label” is easier said than done. When times get busy, it’s hard to stop and read the label of a pesticide product before making the application, but it’s important that applicators are aware of the label instructions and guidelines because the pesticide label is the law. And using a pesticide off-label is breaking the law and can lead to regulatory fines and charges.

Even if a product controls a pest in one crop, but isn’t labeled for another crop with the same pest, the application is illegal.

Off-label pesticide use is a lose-lose situation for all involved. When a pesticide is used off-label, it can harm people, the environment, wildlife, and water. Applicators can also be hurt by making an off-label application by becoming subject to regulatory charges and fines. But, maybe more importantly, they can also hurt themselves by increasing public distrust about the safety and credibility of the chemical industry.

Nationally, the number of incidents of off-label uses has been increasing in past years. In one national instance, farmers sprayed an unlabeled product on their grain to speed up maturity. As a result, more than 1 million bushels of grain were embargoed. Fortunately, none of this grain entered the food or feed chain.

It’s the industry’s responsibility to prove that pesticides can be used safely to control weeds, insects and other pests. We have to be responsible and conscientious. Even if an off-label application doesn’t seem to be doing any harm, the most important thing to remember is the label is the law.

The SD Department of Agriculture has seen an increase in complaint cases in the past two years. In 2001, there was 45 drift incidents reported, 14 misapplication, 4 misuse, and 2 overspray incidents. In the first 10 months of 2002, there have been 53 drift incidents, 14 misapplication and 4 misuse incidents.

EPA Re-Considering Spray Drift Proposal

After receiving over 5,000 negative comments regarding their proposed pesticide drift labeling, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced it has withdrawn its proposed restrictions regarding spray drift.

EPA intends to conduct a series of public listening sessions this winter but has not set any dates or locations at this time. Following those meetings, EPA expects they will publish a reproposal followed by another public comment period sometime next year.

EPA has said that they have learned a lot from the comments and they have a good feeling of the different points, issues, and concerns of stakeholders.

‘DEET’ Now Allowed on Product Labels

In reaction to the spread of West Nile Virus, EPA is allowing registrants of DEET products to use the wording “CONTAINS DEET (n,n-Diethyl-m-toluamide)” on their labels.

In the past, the chemical name, n,n-Diethyl-m-toluamide, was required and the common name, DEET, was usually not included anywhere on the label. The concern was that consumers might not be aware that n,n-Diethyl-m-toluamide and DEET are the same ingredient.

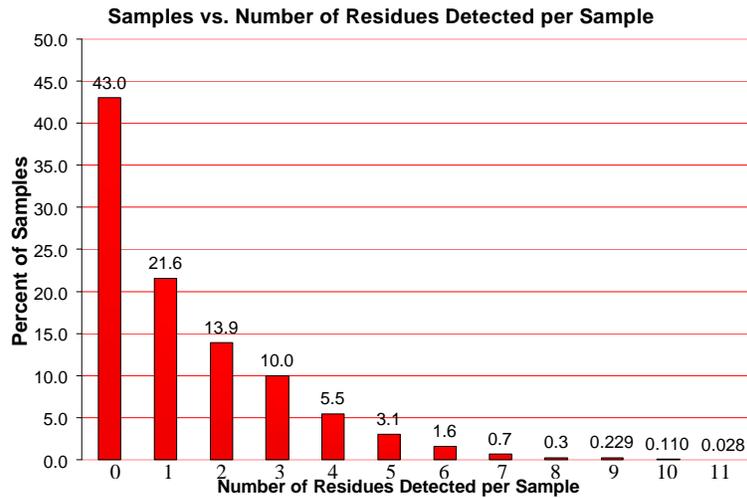
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been recommending the use of insect repellent products containing DEET as part of a program to reduce the chances of becoming infected with diseases such as West Nile.

In 2002, South Dakota reported 33 human cases of West Nile Virus, 92 birds, 626 horses and a sampling of mosquitoes. There have been no human deaths reported.

More information on West Nile Virus in SD can be found at www.state.sd.us/doh/westnile.

Pesticide Residues in Food

The USDA, through their Pesticide Data Program (PDP) collects pesticide residue data on foods most likely to be consumed by infants and children. The following information summarizes some of the samples taken during 2000. Samples were taken from a variety of fruits and vegetables including apples, cantaloupe, carrots, cherries, cucumbers, grapes, green beans, lettuce, nectarines, oranges, peaches, pineapples, potatoes, strawberries, sweet bell peppers and tomatoes. Samples were also taken from peanut butter, rice and poultry products.



PDP also compares residue data reported for samples originating in the United States with those of the same commodity from major exporting countries. Following are results for commodities sampled in 2000. Only residues detected in more than 10 percent of all samples are included.

Origin	# of Samples Analyzed	# of Samples with Detections	% of Samples with Detections	# of Residues Detected
Cucumbers				
United States	393	262	67	604
Mexico	299	275	92	788
Sweet Bell Peppers				
United States	544	361	66	852
Mexico	138	129	93	686
Grapes				
United States	395	220	56	313
Chile	291	263	90	654
Peaches				
United States	273	249	91	787
Chile	260	252	97	1067
Cantaloupe				
United States	192	74	39	96
Central America	119	91	76	144
Mexico	88	61	69	87

On-Farm Fertilizer Storage

The following guidelines and plans are based upon Best Management Practices intended to reduce the potential for pollution from storing and handling commercial fertilizer at on-farm facility locations.

Current Requirements

At present, in South Dakota, no fertilizer storage and handling requirements are directed toward agricultural producer operations other than reporting spills.

Commercial fertilizer distribution dealers are required to comply with the Bulk Commercial Fertilizer Laws (SDCL 38-19) and Bulk Commercial Fertilizer Storage Rules (ARSD 12:44:05) which specify procedures for storing, handling, and distribution of commercial fertilizer.

Any spill, leak, or accidental release that threatens waters of the state must be reported to the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR).

On-Farm Fertilizer Storage and Handling Guidelines

For New Storage Facilities or Future Construction of Fertilizer Storage Facilities

- Review groundwater sensitivity information before constructing any fertilizer storage facilities or handling areas.
- Storage facilities should not be located where any possibility of flooding could occur.
- Construct storage buildings so that seepage or spillage won't occur under normal storage conditions.
- Install curbs or a sloped area in loading areas to prevent run off or spillage onto unprotected areas.
- Place dry fertilizer storage buildings and liquid fertilizer secondary containment over 500 feet away from wells, water supplies, surface water or run-off areas.
- Secondary containment should be of sufficient thickness and strength to withstand loading

conditions. Use one of the following examples:

- Poured concrete of sufficient thickness and strength for loading conditions.
- Synthetic liner, at least 30-mil thick, beneath 12-inches of compacted soil for loading conditions.
- Cross-linked polyolefin, 3/8-inch thick, that meets ASTM standard D 1248-84 for loading conditions
- Install backflow prevention devices or use air gap separation on water supply lines used for fertilizer mixing and equipment rinsing.
- Use leak detection for detecting and monitoring possible leaks from secondary containment facilities.

For Existing Storage Facilities

- Apply appropriate sealant to seams and cracks in all storage facilities and loading areas.
- Replace worn or faulty valves, plugs and threaded fittings in storage containers with stainless steel plumbing hardware if containers are not in secondary containment.
- Lock valves and shutoff devices when storage containers and facilities are not in use.

General Guidelines

- All dry fertilizer should be covered and stored within a secondary containment structure unless it is already stored in a totally enclosed building.
- Liquid fertilizer secondary containment should be capable of holding 125 % of the volume of the largest container plus the volume of the butts of all other containers inside the liquid containment area.
- Fertilizer rinsates and materials should be applied to land at normal application rates.
- Wash fertilizer equipment in the field on the same day as application.
- Avoid rinsing tanks and equipment near a well, stream, lake or wetland.
- All bulk containers with sight gauges should have stainless steel shut-off valves located on the lower fitting of the sight gauge assembly if not in secondary containment.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Agricultural Services
Office of Agronomy Services
523 East Capitol – Foss Building
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3188

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1209
Sioux Falls, SD

ENFORCEMENT CASE UPDATE

Eastern SD – A commercial applicator paid \$800 for two violations of the product label.

Central SD – An aerial applicator paid \$1,238 for drifting pesticides onto a neighboring field in high wind conditions. This was his 2nd offense in five years.

Southeastern SD – A pest control operator was found in violation of fraudulent records and employing unlicensed applicators. The company settled with the department for \$8,000.

Southeastern SD – A fertilizer plant paid \$400 to settle a violation when an unsecured mini-bulk of herbicide fell out of the truck box resulting in a spill.

Northeastern SD – A commercial applicator settled with the department for \$440 for drifting Firstrate and Pursuit onto a spring wheat field. The applicator was spraying in wind conditions above the maximum speed allowed on the label of 10 mph.