

Pesticide Certification Deadline Extended

By Katelyn Hain, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent | Grand Forks County

Private Pesticide Applicator Training season was abruptly cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the State Pesticide office has been working diligently with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and the Governor's office to address the situation. There have been many plans proposed and last week, Gov. Doug Burgum issued the final executive order. Executive Order 2020-17.1 specifically regarding pesticide applicator certification reads as follows:

Effective immediately, the April 1st expiration of commercial, public, private pesticide applicator certifications under NDCC Chapter 4.1-33 is hereby suspended during the pendency of the declared state of public health emergency.

So, applicators who were certified through April 1, 2020, retain their status and have **until the end** of the public health emergency to take the appropriate refresher training to renew their certificates. Any information you have received saying otherwise is superseded by this executive order.

Depending on your pesticide applicator status, here is some information on how to proceed:

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification

Four trainings will be offered online via ZOOM for Private Applicators needing to recertify. These are two hour trainings offered on the following dates and times:

April 21st, 2:00pm to 4:00pm, Preregistration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/Apr21Recert>. April 23rd, 10:00am- Noon, Preregistration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/Apr23amRecert>. April 23rd, 2:00pm to 4:00pm, Preregistration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/Apr23pmRecert>, April 27th, 10:00am- Noon, Preregistration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/Apr27Recert>.

Once you complete the training, the Grand Forks County NDSU Extension Office will be notified. Please send \$30 to:

NDSU Extension, Grand Forks County
Attn: Nessa Halvorson
151 S. 4th St, Ste 302
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Please keep in mind that your certification will not be updated and your cards will not be mailed until payment is received. *If you have already paid for recertification by check or electronically, your card will be sent when we receive notification from NDSU of completed training.*

New Private Pesticide Applicators

Through the duration of this public health emergency, online exams will be offered for new private applicators. While attending a said training listed above is not mandatory in order to complete the certification requirement, I would recommend it. You will pay your \$30 certification fee when you register for the exam, do not pay to attend a training if choosing to do so. Exams will be live April 15th. Links to the exam may take up to 24hrs to receive from registration, so please be patient. You will need

to create an account in with E-extension in order to take the exam. The only training material you will need is a Curtail M label.

Commercial Recertification

Commercial recertification has been rather successful in continuing education through ZOOM trainings. 300 certificates have been issued since Mid-March. Check the Pesticide Program page for future trainings if you require recertification.

Commercial Certification Testing

The NDSU Pesticide office will be offering limited face-to-face testing in Fargo on campus April 20th-May 15th. If you need to get certified commercially, you will receive further instruction on how to register for testing when you register for your test materials. The EPA has certain expectations that apply to commercial applicators, and they have not backed down on those standards. Private applicators are held to a different standard, allowing for online testing. Because of this, we cannot offer online testing for commercial certification.

Once again, I just want to thank our North Dakota pesticide applicators for their patience as we navigate recertification and certification during this unusual situation. If you have any further questions, please contact me by email, at Katelyn.hain@ndsu.edu or phone at 701-780-8229.

NDSU is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Visit [ndsu.edu/equity](https://www.ndsu.edu/equity) or call 701-231-7708 for information.