

## Helping Professional Pesticide Users Meet Certification Standards

### The Situation

*The use of pesticides in agriculture and urban settings to control weeds, diseases, insects, and rodents is essential for maintaining a plentiful and healthy food supply as well as protecting our homes and living space. The general public demands that to do so, without significant adverse effects, applicators must undergo training and certification to demonstrate competence.*

### Extension Response

*Since 1982, the Extension Pesticide Training and Certification Program has been tasked by the North Dakota Legislature and the Governor as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection agency to deliver training opportunities and exams to professional users of pesticides. In 2016, there were 6,103 professional applicators on record who held a certification entitling them to custom apply pesticides in agriculture, road maintenance, public health mosquito control, lawn care, and structural pest elimination.*

### Impacts

According to 2015 data supplied by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, salaries for all certified professional applicators in North Dakota, on an annual basis, was **\$210,501,950**. This figure does not include multipliers for

economic activity or savings due to reduced pest damage. It is strictly the amount of wages earned by all certified applicators in the state. The Extension Training and Certification Program provides critical support for this by offering educational opportunities and by administering exams so applicators may legally and safely apply pesticides.

### Public Value Statement

Pesticide training and certification opportunities help North Dakota's applicators meet safety standards demanded by the general public. They ensure that applicators use pesticides to economically control pests without causing significant adverse effect to people or the environment.

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**Trainings help applicators keep current on best practices.**