The use and sale of pesticides are regulated for the protection of people and their environment. Pesticides are considered valuable and necessary to provide sufficient quantity of quality foods and to provide protection to humans from vector borne diseases. However, the protection from pesticides that are potentially dangerous is in the public interest for all people and their essential needs such as water, air, food, livestock, vegetation, pollinating insects, and shelter. The Montana Pesticides Act was established to help protect these interests and the Montana Department of Agriculture has the responsibility of administering and enforcing the Act. The following is a brief summary of some important points that dealers and applicators need to know to become licensed.

I. WHO NEEDS TO BE LICENSED?

1. Pesticide Dealer - Any person who sells pesticides in or into Montana except those pesticides used only for home, yard and garden use.

2. Pesticide Applicator -
   a. Commercial Applicator - A person, who by contract or for hire, applies pesticides to land, plants, seed, animals, or water.
   b. Non-Commercial Applicator - A person who cannot be classified Private, Commercial, Government, or Public Utility, but desires the use of restricted use pesticides.
   c. Public Utility Applicator - A person who applies pesticides to land owned or leased by a public utility.
   d. Governmental Applicator - A person who applies pesticides for a city, county or state or other government agency to public land or right-of-way, or as a public service.

3. Private Applicator - Any person who applies restricted use pesticides to his/her own crop, land or leased lands. (If you feel that you are a private applicator, contact your MSU county extension agent for further instructions.)

II. HOW IS A LICENSE OBTAINED?

1. Commercial, Non-Commercial and Public Utility Dealers
   a. Passing a core exam with an 80% or better.
   b. Completing an application form.
   c. Paying a license fee of $85.

2. Commercial, Non-Commercial and Public Utility Applicators
   a. Passing exams (core exam as well as category specific exams) with an 80% or better for general-use and/or restricted use products.
   b. Meeting liability requirements.
   c. Completing an application form.
   d. Paying a license fee of $85.
3. **Governmental Applicators and Dealers**
   
   a. Passing exams (core exam as well as category specific exams) with an 80% or better for general-use and/or restricted use products.
   
   b. Completing an application form.
   
   c. Paying a licensing fee, $15 to $70 (No license fees for federal government or tribal applicators).

III. **WHEN AND WHERE ARE EXAMS GIVEN?**

Exams are given by the Montana Department of Agriculture at the Helena office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., or at any of our six pesticide specialist field offices by appointment. The questions are based on material from study manuals that are available for purchase from the department (reference question VIII).

IV. **LIABILITY?**

A **commercial pesticide applicator** must show proof of financial responsibility before a license can be issued. An aerial applicator must carry minimum liability of $1,500 and all other applicators must carry minimum liability of $500. The financial responsibility must be maintained in full force and be effective throughout the licensing period as well as a minimum of 60 days past the date of your last pesticide use or application.

The liability requirements may be met in one of three ways:

1. Insurance - The insurance policy must cover any off-target chemical damage. This policy can have a deductible no higher than $500 except as provided by ARM 4.10.102(2).
2. Surety Bond - This can be obtained through a bonding company.
3. Liability Indemnity (Certificate of Deposit) - This can be obtained through your bank. The account must be automatically renewable and issued to the Department of Agriculture for the benefit of yourself or your business. Its sole purpose must be to fulfill the requirements imposed upon pesticide applicators, by law, as part of their licensing procedure.

V. **WHERE ARE APPLICATIONS OBTAINED?**

Pesticide applicator and dealer application forms are available from the department in Helena and the field offices. They may be obtained after you have passed your exams.

VI. **WHEN IS A LICENSE ISSUED AND FOR HOW LONG?**

All requirements for licensing must be completed and in the Helena office before a license can be processed. The Helena office processes license applications in one week. Individuals must have the license with them before pesticides can be sold or applied. Licenses are valid for the current calendar year only and must be renewed annually.

VII. **IS A LICENSE ISSUED TO A BUSINESS OR AN INDIVIDUAL?**

A pesticide license is issued to an individual, not a business. Every pesticide business must have at least one licensed individual. Each location selling pesticides must have one or more individuals having separate dealer licenses for each location.

VIII. **HOW DO I ORDER TRAINING MANUALS?**

The Montana Department of Agriculture has a series of training manuals to help pesticide applicators and dealers prepare to be licensed. Manuals can be ordered online at [www.pesticides.mt.gov](http://www.pesticides.mt.gov), or from the Department of Agriculture by completing the enclosed order form or purchased at a Department field office. Below is a list of applicator classifications and a short explanation.
(10) **Pesticide Dealer** – Any person who sells pesticides within Montana, except the pesticides used for home, yard and garden use.

(21) **Aerial Applicator Manual** — Applicators that apply pesticides by aircraft (includes drones). Must also obtain at least one other appropriate category.

(30) **Ag Plant Pest** – Applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides in the production of agricultural crops, including without limiting the foregoing: small grains, feed grains, soybeans and forage, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits and nuts, as well as on grasslands and non-crop agricultural lands.

(31) **Ag Animal Pest** – Applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides on animals including without limiting the foregoing: beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, horses, goats, poultry and livestock, and to places on or in which animals are confined.

(32) **Ag Vertebrate Pest** – Applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides in the management of vertebrate animals normally wild or feral, including certain predators, rodents and birds, which may adversely affect man’s health or property or are a nuisance to man.

(33) **Forest Pest** – Applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides in forests, forest nurseries, and forest seed-producing areas.

(34) **Ornamental and Turf Pest** – Applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides to control pests in the maintenance and reproduction of ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers, and turf.

(35) **Seed Treatment and Elevator Pest** – Applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides onto seeds, the use of fumigants in seed storage areas or on or in seeds and the use of pesticides in or around the elevator seed storage facilities.

(36) **Aquatic Pest** – Applicator using or supervising the use of pesticides purposefully applied to standing or running water, excluding applicators engaged in public health related activities included in the Public Health Pest control classification.

(37) **Right-of-Way, Rangeland, Pasture, and Noncrop Pest** – Applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides to manage weeds or other vegetation in the maintenance of public roads, electric power lines, pipelines, railway rights-of-way, or other similar areas, as well as grassland and pastures that are not harvested for forage, and on noncrop areas.

(38) **Public Health Pest** – State, federal, or other governmental employees or contracted and/or commercial applicators using or supervising use of pesticides in public health programs for the management and control of pests having medical and public health importance.

(39) **Demonstration and Research Pest** – This classification includes: a) Individuals who demonstrate to the public the proper use of pesticides and pesticide application techniques or supervise such demonstrations or make or approve recommendations on pesticide product use and/or selection. (Persons licensed as pesticide dealers are exempt from this classification); b) work Individuals conducting field research with pesticides and in doing so, use or supervise the use of pesticides. Must also obtain at least one other appropriate category.
(40) Industrial, Institutional, Structural, and Health Related Pest – Applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides in, on, or around food handling and manufacturing establishments, human dwellings, institutions such as schools and hospitals, industrial establishments and any other structures and adjacent areas, public or private.

(41) Wood Product Pest – Applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides for pole framing, silling applications, some home and farm uses, brush on treatments, sapstain control, and uses in non-pressure treatment plants for the protection of wood products.

(43) Sodium Cyanide (M-44) - Applicators using M-44 cyanide capsules in M-44 ejector devices to control certain wild canids: coyotes, red fox, gray fox, and wild dogs that depredate livestock and poultry. Must have special training with Montana Department of Agriculture Vertebræ Specialist after passing written exam.

(44) Special Utility Pest – Applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides in the maintenance of utility rights of ways, substations, and pole conditioning or other similar areas.

(45) School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – Applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides in the school environment under a “Model School Integrated Pest and Pesticide Management Safety Program” including but not limited to school yards, buildings, playing fields, and other property under the jurisdiction of the school district. Must also obtain at least one other category, number 34 or 40.

(46) Piscicide Pest – Applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides purposefully applied to waters to eliminate fish species as a fishery management tool.

Governmental employees, State, Federal, or other, who use or supervise the use of pesticides in the control of regulated pests use these additional Regulatory Pest Control Classifications:

(50) Mosquito abatement – A governmental applicator who applies pesticides to control mosquitoes.

(52) Predator – A governmental applicator who uses the M-44 device or Livestock Protection Collar to control vertebrate predators.

(54) Rodent – A governmental applicator who applies pesticide in the management of vertebrate animals normally wild or feral.

(55) Weed – A governmental applicator who applies pesticides to public roadways or right-of-ways as a public service.
Montana Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Sciences Division  
PO Box 200201  
Helena, MT 59620-0201

Please TYPE or PRINT

Name: ________________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________ Street or PO Box __________  City __________ State/Zip __________

Phone: ____________________________ Email: ______________________________

Business Name & Location: ________________________________

Montana Pesticide Study Manuals

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<td>34) Ornamental &amp; Turf Grass</td>
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<td>41) Wood Treatment</td>
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No cost - Please check this box to receive the full version of the Montana Agricultural Pesticides Act and Administrative Rules

TOTAL DUE =

Make checks payable to: Montana Dept. of Agriculture. Send payments to the address shown at top of form.

Training manuals are available online at pesticides.mt.gov, and from the Helena office or Field Offices.

For further information contact Licensing & Registration at 406-444-5400 or visit us at pesticides.mt.gov