



PESTICIDE EDUCATION
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

MDA Pesticide Training Newsletter - May 2022



The Montana Department of Agriculture approves live (in-person/webinar) and online training opportunities for continuing education credits each year for Montana pesticide applicators and dealers. You can search for these courses by using the [MTPlants Course Locator](#) or by going to the [Pesticide Training and Recertification](#) page. Here you will be able to view the Training Events Calendar and a variety of online courses available.

Dealers, Commercial, Non-Commercial, Public Utility, and Government Applicators can earn up to 6 credits each [recertification cycle](#) through approved online training for each category. Below are the classifications expiring on 12/31/2022.

Classifications expiring in 2022

Aquatic Pest	Dealer	Forest Pest	Ornamental & Turf
Piscicide	Special Utility	Wood Treatment	

Vertebrate Pest Specialist Update

The MDA is updating the ***Agricultural Plant Pest manual*** and looking for photos of agricultural pests including weeds, bugs, disease, and pesticide damage to help illustrate the manual. In addition, photos of equipment, people spraying, treating etc. would be welcomed.

Photographers please include name and business (if you want your business listed), along with a brief description of the picture (e.g. spraying kochia, etc).

Photos need to be at least 1 megabyte (1000+kb).

Photos can be submitted to:

Vetebrate Pest Specialist, Stephen M. Vantassel, CWCP, ACE at

406.538.3004 or svantassel@mt.gov

Vertebrate Pests



Pesticide Licensing

Licensing 101: Do you have pesticide licensing questions? Below is a short list of common licensing needs for applicators and dealers.

- How to acquire a pesticide license
- Account updates (name, address, phone, email, etc.)
- Reciprocal licenses



- Core and Classification testing
- Out of state testing
- Letters of good standing
- Pesticide license types
- Applicator classifications
- All forms and fees for pesticide licensing

Existing License Holders: If you haven't renewed yet, we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to [renew online with an MTPlants account](#). Please see the [linked instructions](#) for additional information. Having your own MTPlants account allows you to keep track of your continuing education credits, trainings attended, and the ability to print a duplicate license.

Renewals postmarked after March 1, 2022, incur a \$25 late fee. Private applicator renewals are not subject to a late fee.

For assistance with licensing needs or information contact:

Pesticide Licensing Examiner Specialist, Tari Nyland at 406.444.4900 or tari.nyland@mt.gov.



[Renew Online](#)

Applicator Credit Requirements

Applicators who did not meet the credit requirement for any classification that expired 12/31/21, will need to retest to **recertify** in order to renew the classification on their license.

Computer-based testing is available through [Metro Institute](#) in Great Falls, Missoula, Bozeman, Butte, Helena, and Glendive. Private applicators should contact their local extension agent to retest or attend a PAT for recertification.

For more information contact:

Pesticide Licensing Examiner Specialist Tari Nyland at 406.444.4900 or tari.nyland@mt.gov. to help you to arrange a testing opportunity near you.

Initial Core Training Update

Initial Core Training covers an extensive amount of material and practical exercises to prepare students for the Core exam. This spring MDA had great participation at the Initial Core trainings held in Great Falls, Billings, and Missoula.

If you missed any of the in-person trainings, you can [register](#) for the Initial Core self-paced online course at any time.



Online Training Available

Online training is available through the MDA website at <https://agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Training-Recertification-Program> for both initial core and recertification courses.

Initial category preparatory courses are available at the [Certified Training Institute](#) and are intended to help prepare for category exams. Right-of-Way/Regulatory Weed, Ornamental and Turf, Mosquito Control, Wood-Destroying Pest, and General Structural Pest available.

For more information contact:

Pesticide Education Specialist Lisa Hixson at 406.444.3732 or lisa.hixson@mt.gov

Pesticide Registration - Important Pesticide Changes



Effective March 1, 2022

Environmental Protection Agency Final Rule Revoking All Tolerances for Food and Feed Uses of Chlorpyrifos

In August 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its final rule revoking all chlorpyrifos tolerances, effectively stopping the use of chlorpyrifos on food and feed crops. Tolerances for all commodities expired on February 28, 2022.

Upon reviewing all public comments regarding the final rule, the EPA denied all objections to, requests for hearing on those objections, as well as requests for stay of the final rule ([Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)).

If chlorpyrifos is detected in food and feed crops for sale in the U.S. after February 28, 2022, the crop will be considered adulterated and will be ineligible for sale. However, if it can be proven that chlorpyrifos was legally applied to the crop prior to February 28, 2022, and levels are below the previous tolerance level, it will not be considered adulterated. The Food and Drug Administration published a [guidance document to assist food producers and processors to address questions related to treated commodities with chlorpyrifos residues](#).

Non-agricultural uses of chlorpyrifos on golf course turf, industrial sites, greenhouse and nursery production, sod farms, and wood products are unaffected by this rule.

For more information about this rule see the [EPA's Frequent Questions about the Chlorpyrifos 2021 Final Rule](#).

For more information or questions, please contact

Pesticide Registration Specialist, Shaunie Aklestad at 406.444.5474
or ShaunieAklestad@mt.gov

MSU Extension Pesticide Education Program



Spring pesticide applications are being delayed in many areas of the state due to cool, wet conditions. Use this as an opportunity to prepare for pesticide application in

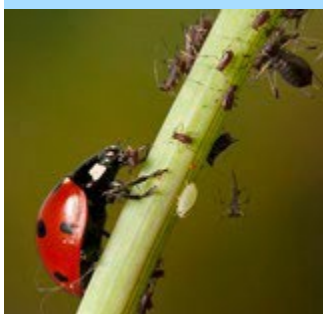
upcoming weeks/months. The MSU Extension Pesticide Education Program as the following updates that may be helpful to pesticide preparing for spring applications:

- Revokes Use of Chlorpyrifos on all Food/Feed Crops: [Read the MSU PEP news article for more information. \[pesticides.montana.edu\]](https://pesticides.montana.edu)
- Recorded MSU Extension PEP Webinar: [Preparing for Pesticide Applications \[montana.webex.com\]](https://montana.webex.com): (April 2022; 54 minutes)
- Recorded MSU Extension Webinar: [Grasshopper Workshop \[zoomgov.com\]](https://zoomgov.com) (April 2022; 2 hours) Password: r5NmJ!XN

For more information regarding the Montana Private Applicator Program contact your [MSU Extension County Agent \[pesticides.montana.edu\]](https://pesticides.montana.edu) or the MSU PEP (406.994.5067; ctharp@montana.edu)

MSU Extension Publications & Pesticide News

Request for Photos



The MDA is asking pesticide applicators and the general public for digital photos to help us illustrate our training materials.

What do we need? In short, everything! Okay, not everything, but a lot. Specifically, we need photos both close up and in landscape views of:

- Plants, including weeds, crops, damaged plants, ornamentals, etc. including the plants in different growth stages.
- Equipment: farming, pest control equipment and supplies, people working the fields (no photos of minors).
- Animals, including farm animals, pets, wildlife, pest species
- Insects, including close ups, pest insects, non-pest insects,
- Habitat and landscapes: urban areas, farming, suburban, forests, fields, ROWs, ornamental and turfs,
- If you are unsure, take the photo and send it along. We are looking to update our training in Right of Way (ROW), Agricultural Plant, and Ornamental and Turf.

This is your chance to help the MDA improve the quality of our training as we update our materials.

Photos should be in focus and at least 1 megabyte (1000k) or greater in size, but no larger than 10 mg. Please include your contact info in case we need to ask questions about the photo. Send photos to svantassel@mt.gov along with your name, permission and a description of the photo (e.g. name of the plant if you know it).

Pesticide Program Contacts

Program Manager - Rory Ruffner 406.444.3676 Rory.Ruffner@mt.gov

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tari.nyland@mt.gov

Pesticide Registration Specialist - Shaunie Aklestad 406.444.5471
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Vertebrate Pest Specialist - Stephen M. Vantassel 406.538.3004 svantassel@mt.gov

Training Development Specialist - Vacant

Pesticide Education Specialist - Lisa Hixson 406.444.3732 lisa.hixson@mt.gov



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