

MDA 2026 Fall Recertification Training - Helena

Location: Montana Heritage Society

Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2026



<u>TIME</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
8:00 – 8:20	Check – In	MDA Staff
8:20 – 8:30	Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping	Beth Thomas MDA
8:30 – 9:20	Pesticide Law, Compliance & Enforcement <i>The compliance assistance and enforcement program helps ensure pesticides are managed for the protection of humans, animals, crops and the environment. This presentation will describe what pesticide applicators should expect to be asked as well as the various elements of investigations and routine inspections, compliance assistance, the complaint process, how to handle pesticide spills and best practices for proper pesticide storage.</i>	Kaleb Pearson, MDA
9:20 – 10:10	Control of Vertebrates in Sensitive Areas <i>This presentation discusses the management of ground squirrels, pocket gophers, prairie dogs, and voles that occur in areas visible to neighbors and the public, such as parks, residential properties, golf courses etc. Topics include biology and abilities, their damage, disease, and sign of presence. The remainder of the presentation details the strategies to eliminate their presence from the landscape with attention on the pros and cons of techniques and their risks for public condemnation. Control methods discussed include habitat modification, exclusion, trapping, and toxicants.</i>	Stephen Vantassel, MDA
10:10 – 10:25	BREAK	
10:25 – 11:15	Pest Management: Plant ID & Biology <i>In a world of technology some of the basic principles of plant ID have been lost. This presentation will re-introduce us to the fundamentals of plant identification and biology. The usefulness of dichotomous keys in identifying plants using distinguish features such as leaf shape, bark texture, branching patterns, and reproductive structures will be demonstrated. Basic plant biology will be described to understand how plants grow as well as how modes of action of pesticides help with pest control.</i>	Jake Degenstein, MDA
11:15 – 12:05	Groundwater and Recycling/Disposal Program <i>This presentation describes changes in common herbicide products from glyphosate formulations to triclopyr and the differences in environmental transport and fate of the two chemicals, as well as the risks of increasing atrazine use. Container preparation for agricultural chemical plastic container recycling collection, recycling program routes, and new infrastructure. Waste Pesticide Disposal program how to register, what's accepted, and upcoming events.</i>	Brett Heitshusen, MDA
12:05 – 1:05	LUNCH	
1:05 – 1:55	Pesticide Safety Bingo <i>Criteria to properly select PPE, where to find minimum PPE requirements, and the cleaning, maintaining, and disposing of PPE will be revisited. In addition, different types of labels, how and when to read a pesticide label, including names, ingredients, formulations, signal words, symbols and their relative hazard level, precautionary statements, and environmental hazard statements will be reviewed.</i>	Beth Thomas, MDA
1:55 – 2:45	Aquatic Invasive Species <i>This presentation provides an overview of the current status and distribution of priority aquatic invasive species in Montana, with an emphasis on invasive aquatic plants. Participants will learn about early detection methods, including environmental DNA (eDNA) and field monitoring used by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, as well as best management practices to prevent the spread of AIS. In addition, integrated management strategies—including chemical, mechanical, and biological control methods—and uses real Montana case studies to highlight the strengths, limitations, and practical application of each approach will be explained.</i>	Craig McLane, FWP
2:45 – 3:00	Wrap-Up, Evaluation, and Closing Remarks	

AVAILABLE CREDITS PER PESTICIDE CATEGORY:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
(0) Dealer	6
(1) Agricultural Plant Pest Control	4
(2) Forest Pest Control	4
(3) Ornamental and Turf Pest Control	6
(4) Seed Treatment	3
(5) Aquatic Pest Control	5
(6) Right-of-Way, Rangeland, Pasture, and Noncrop Pest Control	4
(7) Industrial, Institutional, Structural, and Health Related Pest Control	3
(8) Public Health Pest Control	2
(9) Non-Soil Fumigation	3
(10) Demonstration and Research	6
(11) Wood Product Pest Control	2
(12) Livestock Protection Collar (1080)	2
(13) Sodium Cyanide (M-44)	2
(14) Special Utility	4
(15) School Pest Control	4
(16) Agricultural Animal Pest Control	4
(17) Agricultural Vertebrate Pest Control	3
(18) Aerial	3
(19) Piscicide	2
(20) Mosquito Abatement	2
(21) Predator	2
(22) Rodent	2
(23) Regulatory Weed	4
(24) Sewer Treatment	2
(25) Animal Contraceptive Vaccine	2
(26) Biocide Treatment	2
(40) Private Agricultural Pest Control	6
(41) Private Aquatic Pest Control	5
(42) Private Livestock Collar	2
(43) Private Sodium Cyanide (M-44)	2
(44) Private Non-Soil Fumigation	3
(45) Private Aerial	3

Evaluation:

At the conclusion of the training, please use the link or QR code to access and complete the short evaluation about this training. Thanks in advance! 😊

Link:

bit.ly/FallRecert

OR

QR Code

