



Dear Applicator,

We're reaching out to you regarding both an upcoming expiration of your pesticide applicator training credentials and with updates on our training and testing. With the growing number of COVID-19 cases in our county and state, your safety is our top priority. We have made some changes and added some new options to this year's private pesticide applicator training program (PAT) to help keep our communities safer. Here's how this impacts you:

- No in-person training is currently being offered;
- Online training will be available beginning December 1, 2020;
- If a person cannot complete the online training, self-study testing is currently the only option;
- Online testing and limited in-person testing are both available this year.

PAT Manuals

A manual must be purchased ahead of training and/or testing.

You can order manuals online at the PAT Store <https://patstore.wisc.edu> with a credit card, or use a mail form available at <https://go.wisc.edu/patbook> and send it with a check. In-person purchasing at your Extension County Office for \$30 may be available depending on local hours and building access; contact your Extension County Office for more information.

Training:

Online training is available. To access this, visit the PAT Store at <https://patstore.wisc.edu>. Scroll down to "Private Applicator Training" and select General Farming 100/101. Then chose B. "Online Private Applicator Training."

Cost is \$10 per person. Available trainings are:

- December 1-14, 2020
- January 1-14, 2021
- February 1-14, 2021
- March 1-14, 2021
- April 1-14, 2021
- May 1-14, 2021

After choosing a training from the PAT Store, you can begin anytime in the 14-day window you selected. However, just like the in-person training, you must complete it in one sitting. You will not be able to start and stop, except for the designated breaks that are built into the training. Allow yourself approximately 3.5 hours to complete.

After successful completion of the online training, you will receive a receipt that will allows eligibility of the passing rate of 50% when you take the test.

Testing: Online or In-Person

If an individual does not take the training, they are able to do the self-study option, which requires a passing rate of 70%

An online test will be available beginning with the December online trainings. Check the PAT Store website above for information regarding taking the online test.

A very limited amount of in-person testing will be made available ONLY for individuals who don't have online access. This is to reduce office traffic and limit potential person-to-person exposure. To schedule an in-person test:

- You must call ahead to your County Extension Office: 715-261-1230
- There is a 2-hour time limit per DATCP Testing policy
- Masks **MUST BE WORN** while at the office
- Testing may be done individually or in small groups (<10), depending on county policy
- Cell phones are not allowed in the testing room; they must be left in the Extension Office
- Bring your manual, calculator, and pencils with erasers (*you MUST bring your own supplies, the office will not be providing shared supplies to minimize possible disease transmission*)
- Also, you must bring photo ID or notarized waiver for why you don't have photo ID

It will be especially important this year to get your testing completed well ahead of when certification is needed. You may also consider the self-study option to get your testing completed sooner. We cannot guarantee in-person testing will be offered consistently between now and Spring.

Commercial testing

A third option is to test as a commercial applicator with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer protection (DATCP). Commercial testing is a closed-book test. To schedule a test with DATCP visit <https://pestexam.datcp.wi.gov/> or call 608-224-54548.

Who needs to get certified?

Finally, be sure to take a moment and see if you actually need to be certified. In some situations, individuals have realized they don't need certification. Please check the criteria below.

You must be certified if you apply, mix and load, or direct the use of:

- Restricted-use pesticides (RUPs)
- Any pesticide on a for-hire basis
- Any pesticide in or on public schools or school grounds (K-12 public schools)
- Any pesticide in aquatic environments (may also be a requirement of permit)

You also must be certified if you:

- Conduct pesticide-safety training for agricultural workers or pesticide handlers as required under the Worker Protection Standard (WPS)

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate this unprecedented situation together. Please don't hesitate to contact your County Extension Office, the University of Wisconsin Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) Program or DATCP if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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