Hardin County Extension News Release
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Pesticide Recertification Training

Hardin County – Some farmers have received a notice that informs them that their current pesticide applicator license will expire at the end of March 2015 and that they must complete their continuing education hours to renew before this date. The cost of renewal has increased since the last time and it will now cost $65. Thirty dollars is sent to the Ohio Department of Agriculture for the license itself and $35 to OSU Extension for the continuing education requirement.

Farmers must have a private applicator license to apply restricted use pesticides on their farm or for an employer’s crops. A commercial license is required for individuals who apply products on fields other than their own or as a business. The Environmental Protection Agency determines whether a product is designated restricted use or general use. Restricted use products may be organic or traditional pesticides.

To obtain a private applicator license, a farmer must pass a series of exams that test their competency in pesticide safety and application knowledge. They also must be certified in one or more of seven categories, such as Core Information, Grain and Cereal Crops, Forage Crops and Livestock, Fruit and Vegetable Crops, Nursery and Forage Crops, Greenhouse Crops, and Fumigation.

A license must be renewed every three years by completing three hours of continuing education. Recertification training emphasizes effective management strategies that enhance crop productivity, encourage responsible use of products, and promote safe practices for applicators, the public, and the environment. OSU Extension offices are currently offering recertification programs to fulfill the three hours of the continuing education requirement for license renewal.

The Hardin County Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) program will be offered March 19 at the Plaza Inn Restaurant in Mt. Victory. The session will begin at 9:00 am and end at 12:00 pm. This session is for private applicators and will consist of Core Information, Grain and Cereal Crops, Forage Crops and Livestock, and Fumigation. Farmers must pre-register online at
http://pested.osu.edu or pick up a registration form to mail in from the Extension Office at 1021 W. Lima Street, Suite 103 in Kenton. Further information regarding certification in other areas can be obtained by contacting the Extension office by March 20.

A two-hour fertilizer certification program for any applicator who has a pesticide license will be offered on March 19, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Plaza Inn Restaurant in Mt. Victory. This meeting is in conjunction with the pesticide recertification and will meet the certification requirements only for those with a pesticide license. Pre-registration is required and you can register by calling the Hardin County Extension office at 419-674-2297.

Training dates for Commercial Pesticide Applicators can be found at http://pested.osu.edu/commrecert.html. Training dates for Private Pesticide Applicators in other counties in northwestern Ohio may be found at the following address: http://pested.osu.edu/privaterecert.html. The commercial and private applicator licenses are another way that commercial pesticide applicators and farmers show good stewardship in caring for our land and raising our food.