

Pesticide applicator continuing education workshops offered

Written by Wilma Trujillo, SEA Agronomist

Pesticide application is regulated by a very strict set of guidelines and laws. Since 2007, these regulations are enforced by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). Some of the regulations include the licensing of private and commercial pesticide applicators.

The purpose of the license is to ensure the applicators have a good working knowledge of how the pesticides work as well as how to handle and apply them safely and correctly. To become licensed, an applicator must take and pass a test developed by CDA.

Under the Colorado Pesticide Applicators Act, to maintain the status of Qualified Supervisor or a Certified Operator, applicators must accumulate seven Continuing Education Credits (CECs) in core subjects and one or two CEC(s) in each of the categories in which they are currently licensed.

Colorado State University's Southeast Area Extension is offering four Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Credit Workshops in January 2011. These workshops will provide area applicators the knowledge and instruction necessary to become licensed. The training will also provide required continuing education credits to applicators already holding valid CDA licenses.

The Pesticide Applicator training sessions are scheduled as follows:

—Jan. 5 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Baca County Fairgrounds in Springfield and 5-9 p.m. at the Otero County Extension Office in Rocky Ford.

—Jan. 6 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the County Annex Mezzanine in Lamar.

—Jan. 7 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Cheyenne County Extension Office.

These workshops make pesticide application safer not only for the applicators but for everyone

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who may be in close proximity to an area that has been sprayed or may come in contact with agricultural products.

If interested in attending any of the workshops scheduled, contact a local County Extension Office (Bent, Baca, Cheyenne, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers) for more information and registration. People may also contact Wilma Trujillo, the Southeast Area Agronomist, at the Prowers County Extension Office at 719-336-7734 or at wilma.trujillo@colostate.edu.

The registration deadline is Dec. 31.