Online Training Option for Private Applicator Pesticide Certification

Farmers who need to get certified to apply pesticides in 2021 will have an online option for their pesticide safety training. People can do the online training instead of attending an in-person training at their local County Extension office. Attending this online training from the comfort of your home will be like going to a training session in person. You will need a computer and a good internet connection. The online training will present the same information as the County Extension in-person training.

You will, however, still need to take the certification exam in person at an Extension office. But the required passing grade for the exam will be the same as if you attended an in-person training session. People who choose to self-study, and not do either an in-person or online training session, need a higher grade to pass the exam.

The online training sessions are scheduled for the first two weeks of every month from December 2020 to May 2021 (the 1st to the 14th of the month). When you register for one of the sessions, you can take the training at any time during that two-week period. Please block approximately 4 hours to complete the training. Attendance is mandatory, meaning once you start the training you will have to complete it in one session. Two 15-minute breaks are built into the training. To assure attendance, code words are provided in the training that you must enter at the end to be marked as complete. You will be emailed a link and password to the training to get access.

Certification exams will take place at your County Extension office. If your Extension office is not offering the test due to COVID-19 restrictions, contact a neighboring county. Once you complete the online training you will be emailed a receipt of completion that you must show to the County Extension exam proctor when you take the exam. The code words must be correct to take advantage of the reduced grade, otherwise you will be marked as a self-study test.

To attend the training, you must purchase the latest training manual either from your County Extension Office or the UW Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) Program then register separately for the online training at the UW PAT Store. Online training costs $10.00. To register, go to the UW PAT Store [https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/default.asp]. Select General Farming 100/101. Those wishing to get certified in Fruit Crops or Greenhouse & Nursery can take the General Farming training, but then take the exam for those categories. To find contact information for County Extension offices, go to https://counties.extension.wisc.edu/.