

Private pesticide applicators with licenses expiring in 2010, as well as anyone seeking first-time private applicator certification, should contact their local University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension office for information on pesticide education training sessions that begin in January.

Licensed private pesticide applicators can buy and use restricted-use pesticides in their own farming operations after completing this training.

Training topics include results from the Farm Family Exposure Study, which answers two questions: How much pesticide exposure do farmers and their families experience? And what practical measures can be taken to reduce that exposure?

UNL Extension cropping systems specialist Bob Klein compares effectiveness of drift reduction spray nozzles and gives guidance on how to conduct high quality pesticide applications.

Extension entomologist Bob Wright will give updates on insects affecting soybeans and extension plant pathologist Loren Geisler will have an update on soybean cyst nematode.

Other training topics include soybean aphid identification and management, as well as drift reduction nozzles, equipment calibration, worker protection standard, protective pesticide clothing and equipment, updates on pesticide laws and regulations and special emphasis on pesticide health impacts, said Clyde Ogg, extension pesticide safety educator.

Private applicators needing recertification in 2010 should have received a letter notifying them of that fact from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture in mid-December, Ogg said.

Applicators having the bar-coded letter with them at training sessions will not have to fill out the application form.

For a list of training sessions, sites and dates, contact the nearest extension office or go online to <http://pested.unl.edu/privateschedule>, where applicators will find pesticide education sites for private applicators listed by county.

Certification applications will be sent to NDA, who will then send a bill to the applicator, Ogg said.