



## LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

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MIKE STRAIN DVM, COMMISSIONER

### Attention Commercial Applicators

On October 31, 2016, the Advisory Commission on Pesticides approved LDAF to make improvements to the Pesticide Certification and Training program. During the **2017** calendar year, all **Louisiana Certified Commercial Applicators** will be required to take and pass a basic general standards proficiency test in addition to one or more category specific tests at an approved recertification or other scheduled meeting to be held throughout the state. The tests will not replace the initial certification test, but will consist of questions pertaining to basic pesticide safety, proper pesticide use and category specific topics. LDAF will accommodate all applicators, including industry groups, associations, and individuals with special needs in order to effectively and efficiently achieve this requirement in 2017. Testing will be accomplished at places and times convenient for all and there will not be any fees associated with the tests.

**NOTE: This is a MANDATORY requirement to maintain pesticide certification in Louisiana. Even though some applicators are not required to recertify until 2019, completion of the tests in 2017 still applies to all applicators. This new requirement will not affect your recertification schedule going forward.**

#### Proficiency Testing Process:

- Testing will consist of 20 multiple choice questions covering general pesticide knowledge plus 20 additional category specific multiple choice questions (the number will be dependent on certification categories held).
- All test topics will be presented and reviewed during each meeting with testing administered at the end.
- Testing will be in an electronic format utilizing a 'Class Response System' (clickers).
- A minimum score for successful completion of the tests is 70 percent.
- Applicators will be notified by mail of test results including re-test options for individuals who do not achieve a passing grade.
- In lieu of completion of the required testing in 2017, all Certified Commercial Applicators have the option to retake the Initial Pesticide Certification Exam(s) pertinent to certification(s) held.

The LDAF is charged with regulating both state and federal pesticide laws to ensure competency in all persons applying pesticides in Louisiana. In improving applicator competency in Louisiana, we are again raising the standard for the pesticide industry in our great state. The mission of the Pesticide Program is to protect human health and the environment by ensuring the proper labeling, distribution, storage, use, application and disposal of pesticides, and through enforcement of all pesticide laws. Certified applicators competent to use pesticides safely are the foundation of a sound pesticide regulatory program.

**Information on Test Dates and Locations is forthcoming and can be found on the LDAF website at:**

<http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/?p=6464>

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Wofford or Harry Schexnayder at (225) 925-3763 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.