

# **Pesticide Applicator License Pre-Exam Training**

**March 20 & 22, 2017  
Champlain Valley**



Cornell University  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture



# Who must be certified?

- Anyone using "restricted use" pesticides (RUPs) must be certified or under the direct supervision of someone who is certified.
- There are two classifications of certified applicators, "private" and "commercial."
  - **Private:** Uses or supervises use of RUPs on property owned or rented by himself or his employer.
  - **Commercial:** Is any applicator applying pesticides except as defined in private or residential application of pesticides.

# Private Applicator Certification

- At least 18 years of age

## AND

- At least 1 year full-time experience within the last 3 years in the category you are seeking certification (1 growing season); **OR**
- Have received an applicable associate's or higher degree from an accredited college; **OR**
- Have completed a 30-hour training course: **OR**
- Have 1 year of verifiable experience as a certified commercial applicator in a corresponding commercial category;

## AND

- Pass the core and category exam.

# Certification Exam

- Must pre-register with DEC
- \$100.00 to take the exam (check or money order to NYSDEC with name on check)
- Photo ID
- Pen and #2 pencil, calculator\*
- (no cell phones)

# Exam Criteria

## ■ Core exam

- 50 questions;  
10 on pesticide labels
- Multiple choice
- Closed book
  
- Miss no more than 3  
label questions AND
- Miss no more than 15  
questions total

## ■ Category exam

- 50 questions
- Multiple choice
- Open book
  
- Miss no more than 15  
questions

- 90 minutes to complete each exam

# Exam Criteria

- Category exam is **open book**
  1. Category training manual from Cornell
  2. Article 33 of NYS Environmental Conservation Law (from DEC)
  3. Part 325 NYS Rules and Regulations (from DEC)
  4. Worker Protection Standard materials, if applicable to category exam

# Studying for the Core Exam

- Read and understand learning objectives at the beginning of chapter
- Read the chapter
- If you can go back and answer all the learning objectives you will be prepared to pass the Core exam

# Recording Answers

- Exam graded by optical scanner
- You fill in “bubble sheets”

**SAMPLE ANSWER**      (A)    (B)    (C)        (E)

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11.    (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)      21.    (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)      31.    (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)



# Recording Answers

Record answers carefully – Machines lack judgement

- **Rule #1:** Fill in bubble completely  
an 'X' will not work.
- **Rule #2:** Changing answers?  
Erase marks completely.
- **Rule #3:** Make sure number on answer sheet  
corresponds to question number.  
Beware the skipped question.

# Exam Strategies

- Read every choice before answering
  - Last choice might be “All of the above”
  - Select BEST choice
  - Reread question with your choice in the blank

# Exam Strategies

## Category open-book exam

- Book is not a crutch
- Avoid temptation to look up every answer
- Takes time; may not finish exam
  
- Save “book” questions for last
  - Reduces pressure from time constraint
  - Remember to avoid “skipped question” problem\*

# Exam Strategies

- Stay calm
- Have confidence in yourself
- Trust your gut
  
- More practice: PMEP Tutorial  
<http://psep.cce.cornell.edu/Tutorials/core-tutorial/Default.aspx>

***Ready?!***