

Managing nutrients for cleaner water

Education is the key component of the new fertilizer certification. Farmers will receive research-based training to keep nutrients in the field and available to crops, while reducing nutrients leaving the field.

This certification requirement is in response to concern that phosphorous and nitrogen from farm fields contribute to algal blooms in Lake Erie and to the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

Efforts, in addition to the fertilizer certification, will continue across the state to reduce all nonpoint sources of excess nutrients, both in rural and urban areas.

Best management practices will be the basis of the agricultural fertilizer certification training with a focus on fertilizer applications that have the appropriate:

- Rate
- Timing
- Placement
- Source

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Ohio Recordkeeping Requirements for Agricultural Fertilizer Applications

Application records need documented within 24 hours of the application and kept for three years by the certified applicator.

- Name of applicator or certificate holder
- Date of application (month, day, and year)
- Location or field identification number of fertilizer application area
- Number of acres applied
- Rate of application (e.g., pounds of fertilizer per acre)
- Total amount of fertilizer applied (weight or volume)
- Analysis of fertilizer applied (e.g., 11-52-0)
- Application method (soil injected, incorporated, surface-applied, etc.)
- Soil conditions at the time of application
- Temperature, precipitation, and other weather conditions at the time of application
 - ◇ For surface applications only:
Was the ground frozen or snow-covered (yes/no)?
- Weather forecast for the day following the application

There is no standard format required, but the records need to contain all items listed. Records need to be available to the Ohio Department of Agriculture upon request.

Printed September 2017, supersedes all previous versions

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



Ohio Agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification Requirements



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Pesticide Safety Education Program
614-292-4070 • pested@osu.edu
nutrienteducation.osu.edu



Department of
Agriculture

Pesticide & Fertilizer Regulation
614-728-6987 • pesticides@agri.ohio.gov
agri.ohio.gov



Do I need agricultural fertilizer certification?

The certification is required if you apply fertilizer (other than manure) to more than 50 acres of agricultural production grown primarily for sale. If you hire a co-op or other custom applicator for fertilizer applications, you do not need the certification. Additionally,

you must have fertilizer certification **OR** Ohio Livestock Manager Certification (CLM) to apply manure from any Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility (CAFF).

Do I need the certification if I raise forage for my livestock?

The term “agricultural production” is defined as the cultivation, primarily for sale, of plants or any parts of plants on more than 50 acres. If you raise forage (e.g., hay, silage, corn) for use on your farm, and have questions about fertilizer certification, please contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 614-728-6987 or email: pesticides@agri.ohio.gov

When do I need the certification?

Individuals are encouraged to obtain certification as soon as possible, or when renewing their pesticide applicator license. The certification must be obtained by September 30, 2017.

What records need to be kept?

The records for agricultural fertilizer applications must be kept by the certified applicator. Recordkeeping requirements are listed on the back panel of this brochure and are available online at nutrienteducation.osu.edu

To become certified for agricultural fertilizer applications:

*Attend a **3-hour** class.*

1. Attend a fertilizer certification training class offered by Ohio State University Extension. A schedule of classes will be available at nutrienteducation.osu.edu or by contacting your county OSU Extension office. You will need to attend a 3-hour class that offers initial certification.
2. Complete and sign the fertilizer certification form at the end of the training class. The form will be mailed by OSU Extension to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. You will retain a copy for your records.
3. If you have a pesticide license, you are done. If not, you will pay \$30 for the fertilizer applicator certification. The invoice for the certification fee will be sent to you by the Ohio Department of Agriculture after you complete the fertilizer certification training class. You will need to recertify for fertilizer applicator certification every three years.

To re-certify in agricultural fertilizer applications:

*Attend a **1-hour** recertification class.*

1. Attend a 1-hour re-certification training offered by Ohio State University Extension **when your recertification is due**. You will be receiving a mailing with your fertilizer recertification renewal that has a schedule of classes available, or you can visit nutrienteducation.osu.edu.
2. Complete and sign the re-certification form at the end of the training class. The form will be mailed by OSU Extension to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. You will retain a copy for your records.
3. You will need to re-certify every three years to maintain your certificate.