

From the Ground Up



Agronomy News

Volume 29
Issue 2



Quick Topics

Pesticide Applicators Licensing

Current Events

*2010 Colorado Wheat Field
Days Schedule*

What's In a Certified Bean?

Table of Contents

- 3 Pesticide Applicators Licensing**
- 3 Current Events**
- 4 2010 Colorado Wheat Field Days Schedule**
- 4 What's In a Certified Bean?**

Credits

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Pesticide Applicators Licensing

R.F. Meyer and A. Helm

Currently, there are two groups of agricultural pesticide applicators who are required to be licensed with the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Licenses are divided into Private applicators and Commercial applicators.

Private applicators are those producers who apply pesticides on the land they farm (owned or rented). As the Colorado statutes are written, private applicators may not apply pesticides for a fee to anyone or they will be classified as commercial applicators. In addition, private applicators only need to be licensed to apply restricted-use pesticides. Non restricted-use pesticides do not require a license to purchase.

Commercial applicators are those who apply pesticides for a fee, regardless of the type of pesticide.

Both private and commercial applicators must be licensed before they can purchase restricted-use pesticides. Keep in mind that the old EPA pesticide licenses are valid in Colorado only until they expire. Therefore, applicators that hold the old cards will need to take the CDA test to become current. Anybody can order a test directly from the CDA or stop in at one of the Colorado State University Extension offices, as many continue to carry them. In addition, some agricultural retailers also have tests available.

Once licensed, applicators can either collect continuing education credits (CEC) or retake the test. Private applicators need 7 CEC's within a three year period in order to renew their license without testing.

Commercial applicators need not only the 7 "Core" CEC's, but also additional category credits.

For more information regarding requirements for both private and commercial applicators, contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 303-239-4148.



Current Events

ILE Seminar Series: Spring 2010
www.livestockandenvironment.info

CSU Beef University, June 3-4, Wellington CO (CSU-ARDEC). Space is limited so register now! Contact Travis Hoffman for more information: phone 970-491-BEEF (2333) or email Travis.Hoffman@colorado-state.edu

Earth Day Lecture: Dr. Rattan Lal. April 22, 2010. 2:00 pm- 3:00 pm Lory Student Center North Ballroom. "Soils, Climate Change, and Global Food Security."

What's In a Certified Bean?

Brad Erker

The Colorado Seed Growers Association has been getting a lot of requests for bean tags lately. With the planting season approaching, suppliers of bean seed are busily cleaning, bagging, tagging, and shipping seed to where beans will be grown this summer. In Colorado, this largely means bean seed on the Western Slope (Delta, Montrose, and Mesa counties) is being shipped to Eastern Colorado. The CSGA certifies approximately 1000 acres of bean seed on the Western Slope each year – primarily CSU-developed varieties such as Montrose, Grand Mesa, Bill Z, and the latest release Croissant.

Certification of bean seed is primarily about diseases. There are many seed borne diseases in beans which can cause major yield losses if seed is infected. This is why bean seed is grown in the dry climate of the Western Slope. We conduct two field inspections to certify beans. The first inspection occurs during flowering, when foliar symptoms of bacterial blights and wilt can be seen. These diseases produce characteristic leaf lesions which can be detected with a trained eye. Similarly, lesions also show up on the pods of infected plants. The second inspection at maturity, sometimes in the windrow, allows us to look for these symptoms. The Legume ipmPIPE is a great online resource, developed by Dr. Howard Schwartz at CSU and others, for identifying these diseases (<http://legume.ipmpipe.org>).

The CSGA employs George Novotny, who lives in Olathe and focused on agricultural chemicals and fertilizers during his career, to conduct both bean inspections. The Bean Standards can be found on the CSGA website, but examples of the strict limits for diseases in certified beans include:

- Bacterial Brown Spot None
- Common Bacterial Blight None
- Halo Blight None
- Bacterial Wilt 1 plant in 5000
- Anthracnose 1 plant in 5000
- Bean common mosaic virus 1 plant in 100

As with all crops, the blue certified tag attached to a bag of bean seed is the grower's assurance the seed has meet the strict quality assurance parameters of CSGA.



2010 Colorado Wheat Field Days Schedule

Walsh	June 7 (Mon)	8:30 a.m. at Plainsman Research Center, Baca County
Lamar	June 7 (Mon)	12 p.m. at John Stulp Farm, Prowers County
Brandon	June 7 (Mon)	5 p.m. at Burl Scherler Farm, Kiowa County
Burlington	June 8 (Tues)	8:30 a.m. at Randy Wilks Farm, Kit Carson County
Genoa	June 8 (Tues)	12 p.m. at Ross Hansen Farm, Lincoln County
Roggen	June 8 (Tues)	5 p.m. at Cooksey Farms, Weld County
Yuma	June 9 (Wed)	8:30 a.m. at Andrews Brothers Farm, Yuma County
Julesburg	June 9 (Wed)	12 p.m. at Jim and David Carlson Farm, Sedgwick County
Haxtun (Irrigated)	June 9 (Wed)	4 p.m. at Brian Kipp Farm, Phillips County
Akron	June 16 (Wed)	7:30 a.m. at Central Great Plains Research Station, Washington County
Orchard	June 16 (Wed)	4:00 p.m. at Cary Wickstrom Farm, Morgan County

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