

This column features questions from readers submitted via the website. To submit a question to Small Acre Sam, visit BarnyardsandBackyards.com. If your question is featured, you will receive a free one-year subscription to *Barnyards & Backyards!*



ask Sam

question

Dear Sam,

My neighbor told me I needed a pesticide applicators license. What do I need to know about becoming a licensed pesticide applicator in the state of Wyoming? – *Amy, Green River*

Dear Amy,

First – what is a pesticide? A pesticide is any product used to kill something else – this includes conventional chemistry and organic products used to manage pests. Organic production does not mean pesticide-free.

There are many reasons for obtaining a pesticide applicators license. You will need a pesticide applicators license if you intend to purchase or apply “restricted use pesticides,” also known as RUPs. Pesticides can be classified as restricted use for a variety of reasons, including high toxicity to humans and wildlife

or other environmental concerns such as the potential for groundwater contamination.

There are two license categories in Wyoming – commercial and private. Either allows applicators to apply RUPs and general use pesticides (GUPs).

You will need a commercial applicators license or be supervised by a licensed commercial applicator if you apply any pesticides for others and receive payment.

You will need a private applicators license or be supervised by a licensed private applicator if you apply any pesticide to property you own, rent, or lease while producing an agricultural crop (including rangeland or feed for livestock). This does not include home gardens for personal consumption.

For homeowners, a license is not required to apply GUPs; however, if you are doing your own pest control, participating in a training program provided by UW Extension is a good idea so you understand the basics of environmental and personal safety, application equipment calibration, and pesticide selection. Contact your local UW Extension office for more information. An excellent reference for safe and accurate pesticide application is the *Wyoming Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual*. Print copies can be ordered from UW Extension Communications and Technology (contact Lori Cook at cespubs@uwyo.edu or 307-766-2115), or the core manual can be digitally downloaded using this link (large file) bit.ly/uwcoremanual.

One final thought concerning pesticides – you do not need to be afraid of them, but you do need to treat them with respect.

For additional information on how to obtain a pesticide applicator license in Wyoming, visit these websites:

- The Wyoming Department of Agriculture – Technical Services Division: wyagric.state.wy.us/online-training/pesticide-applicator.
- The University of Wyoming Pesticide Safety Education Program: uwyoextension.org/psep

– *Sam*

answer

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