
Preface

Grower Pesticide Safety Course

Certification for Ontario Farmers

Under Regulation 63/09 of the **Pesticides Act**, Ontario farmers must be certified to buy and use Class 2 or 3 pesticides on their farms or woodlots.

Certified Farmers must ensure that pesticides are purchased, used, stored, transported and disposed of according to Regulation 63/09.

To become certified, a farmer must successfully complete the **Grower Pesticide Safety Course**. This course is recognized by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

What is a Class 2 or 3 Pesticide?

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment classifies pesticides into one of 11 different classes. Class 2 or 3 pesticides are the most hazardous. You must be certified before you can buy and use them.

To find out if the products you plan to use on your farm are Class 2 or 3 pesticides, you can:

- ▶ contact your local vendor, or
- ▶ check the Ministry of the Environment's web site at www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/land/pesticides/class-pesticides.php

Who is a Farmer under Regulation 63/09?

Under Regulation 63/09 of the **Pesticides Act**, you are a farmer if you own or operate an agricultural operation. Renting, leasing or share cropping a farm are included in this definition.

Agricultural operations include activities to:

- ▶ grow, produce or raise farm animals or crops
- ▶ produce eggs, cream or milk
- ▶ operate agricultural machinery and equipment
- ▶ process farm products
- ▶ manage nutrients, or
- ▶ support the agricultural operation, such as use of transport vehicles or storage containers, or maintenance of a shelterbelt.

Certified Farmers may also buy and use Class 2 or 3 pesticides to manage the woodlot on their farm.

The complete definitions of “agricultural operation”, “farm animal” and “farmer” under Regulation 63/09 are at the end of this Preface. If you have questions about these definitions, contact your Regional Pesticides Specialist. Contact information is listed in the Appendix of the manual.

How Can I Become a Certified Farmer for the First Time?

To become a Certified Farmer you must:

- ▶ meet the definition of a farmer under Regulation 63/09, **and**
- ▶ be at least 16 years of age, **and**
- ▶ attend a one day **Grower Pesticide Safety Course**, **and**
- ▶ successfully complete the course and the certification exam.

How Can I Renew My Certification?

You must renew your certification every five years. You can:

- ▶ attend a classroom session and pass the exam at the course, **or**
- ▶ study on your own and pass the exam at an exam-only session.

How Can I Register for the Grower Pesticide Safety Course?

The Ontario Pesticide Education Program at University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus co-ordinates the **Grower Pesticide Safety Course** across Ontario. Courses and exam-only sessions (to renew a certificate) are offered between November and April.

To register for a course or exam-only session anywhere in Ontario please:

- ▶ call **1-800-652-8573**, or
- ▶ fax **1-519-674-1589**, or
- ▶ e-mail **opep@opep.ca**

Check the Ontario Pesticide Education Program web site at **www.opep.ca** for a list of courses and exam-only sessions offered near you.

In some areas, pesticide vendors offer courses and exam sessions in cooperation with the Ontario Pesticide Education Program. You may register directly with a participating vendor in your area. Check the program web site for locations and times.

Do Assistants Use Class 2 or 3 Pesticides on Your Farm?

As a Certified Farmer, you are responsible for all pesticide use and handling on your farm.

This includes pesticide use and handling by any Assistants you may supervise.

Requirements for Assistants

Assistants must:

- ▶ be 16 years of age or older
- ▶ have basic pesticide safety training recognized by the Ministry of the Environment before they handle or use Class 2 or 3 pesticides. (Assistants do not have to write an exam.)
- ▶ work under the supervision of a Certified Farmer
- ▶ retrain every five years.

These requirements apply to all assistants, including family members, farm employees and seasonal workers.

Training for Assistants

There are two ways for assistants to get the training they need. They can:

- ▶ attend a **Grower Pesticide Safety Course** and not write the examination, **or**
- ▶ participate in an on-farm training session presented by a qualified Assistant Instructor.

For information on the dates and locations of the **Grower Pesticide Safety Course**, go to www.opep.ca.

How Can I Become an Assistant Instructor?

Check the Ontario Pesticide Education Program's web site at www.opep.ca for information about the Assistant Instructor Course.

To register for an Assistant Instructor Course, anywhere in Ontario please:

- ▶ call **1-800-652-8573**, or
- ▶ e-mail opep@opep.ca, or
- ▶ fax **1-519-674-1589**.

What If I Need Class 2 or 3 Pesticides for My Farm and I Am Not Certified?

If you are not certified but need to use Class 2 or 3 pesticides, you have two choices:

1. You can hire a licensed exterminator to purchase and use Class 2 or 3 pesticides for you. A licensed exterminator is authorized to handle and apply pesticides as a business, according to the category of licence. There are fifteen different categories of exterminator licences in Ontario. Be sure the person you hire is licensed for what you need.

2. You can ask another Certified Farmer to do the job under the conditions shown below. The Certified Farmer may apply Class 2 pesticides (except Class 2 fumigant gases) or Class 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 pesticides on an agriculture operation that he/she does not own or operate on a regular basis as long as the Certified Farmer:
 - ▶ is not paid any money for the application
 - ▶ uses only one piece of application equipment at any time and that piece of equipment is normally used on their own agricultural operation
 - ▶ does not apply the pesticide by aircraft
 - ▶ does not sell or leave any pesticide with the farmer
 - ▶ is not assisted by any person other than a Certified Farmer, and
 - ▶ carries their Grower Pesticide Safety Course certificate with them while using pesticides (Reg 63/09, s.43).

Why Was the Grower Pesticide Safety Course Developed?

The **Grower Pesticide Safety Course** was developed to respond to safety concerns expressed by farm organizations, the pesticide industry, government agencies and the public.

Pesticide safety training can help reduce the risks of pesticide use. The **Grower Pesticide Safety Course** provides farmers with the information they need to keep themselves, their families and the environment safe, and our food safe.

The Ontario Pesticide Education Program at University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus co-ordinates the **Grower Pesticide Safety Course** across the province. A Steering Committee provides technical advice, direction and support for the program. The Steering Committee includes representatives from:

- ▶ AGCare (Agricultural Groups Concerned about Resources and the Environment)
- ▶ CropLife Canada (representing pesticide manufacturers and distributors)
- ▶ Ontario Agri Business Association (representing pesticide vendors)
- ▶ Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- ▶ Ontario Ministry of the Environment
- ▶ University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus

Definitions from Regulation 63/09

Definitions:

Reference: Ontario Regulation 63/09 made under the **Pesticides Act**

Section 1. (1) In this Regulation,

“**agricultural operation**” means an agricultural, aquacultural or horticultural operation and, subject to subsection (2), includes any of the following activities done for the purposes of any of those operations:

1. Growing, producing or raising farm animals.
2. The production of agricultural crops, including greenhouse crops, maple syrup, mushrooms, nursery stock, tobacco, trees and turf grass, and any additional agricultural crops prescribed by the regulations made under the *Nutrient Management Act, 2002*.
3. The production of eggs, cream and milk.
4. The operation of agricultural machinery and equipment.
5. The processing by a farmer of the products produced primarily from the farmer's agricultural operation.
6. Activities that are a necessary but ancillary part of an agricultural operation such as the use of transport vehicles or storage containers or maintenance of a shelterbelt for the purposes of the agricultural operation.
7. The management of materials containing nutrients for farm purposes.
8. The production of wood from a farm woodlot, if at least one of the activities described in paragraphs 1 to 7 is carried out on the property where the farm woodlot is located;

“**farm animal**” means,

- (a) livestock, including poultry and ratites,
- (b) fur-bearing animals,
- (c) bees,
- (d) cultured fish,
- (e) deer and elk,
- (f) game animals and birds, or
- (g) any additional animals, birds or fish prescribed by the regulations made under the *Nutrient Management Act, 2002*;

“**farmer**” means,

- (a) an individual who owns an agricultural operation, or
- (b) an individual who operates an agricultural operation on a regular basis;

Section 1. (2) For the purposes of the definition of **agricultural operation** in subsection (1), production **does not include**,

- (a) production primarily for use or consumption by members of the household of the owner or operator of the agricultural operation;
- (b) production primarily for the purposes of a pastime or recreation;
- (c) production related to the growing of trees in a Crown forest;
- (d) production related to the growing of plants in a park, cemetery, on a lawn or similar location where the plants are grown primarily for display purposes; or
- (e) production related to the growing of agricultural crops in a park, on a property used primarily for residential purposes or in a garden located in a public space.