

Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement, de  
la Protection de la nature et des Parcs



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Tél: 416 .327.5519  
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June 9, 2021

Dear Certificate Holder,

Nothing is more important than protecting the health and wellbeing of Ontarians.

To support provincial efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, in April 2020 the ministry extended certification to over 3,000 farmers and pesticides vendors who were unable to meet regulatory re-certification requirements due to the closure of non-essential workplaces, such as ministry-approved examination sites. Since then, the ministry has been working closely with the University of Guelph to improve the delivery of the Ontario Pesticide Education Program to provide more online and in-person course options.

In-person courses continue to be scheduled by the university as much as possible to meet demand, while ensuring compliance with public health measures to protect the public and course instructors. Additionally, online courses continue to be provided by the university to meet the needs of a significant number of growers opting to certify online.

The ministry understands that some farmers and growers may still be experiencing difficulties with meeting their recertification requirements due to technological issues with online courses or limited in-person courses. As such, we have decided to extend the validity of certain certificates again.

### **Extension of your certificate**

If you have a Grower Pesticide Safety Course certificate that expires on or after January 1, 2021, and you have not been able to complete the training and exams due to the COVID-19 pandemic, your certificate is now valid until December 31, 2021.

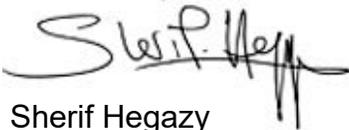
This letter serves as notice that the Director, under the authority of subsection 43 (4) of O. Reg. 63/09: General, made under the *Pesticides Act*, is extending the period of time within which you must have last successfully completed the course to December 31, 2021.

Please attach this letter to your existing Grower Pesticide Safety Course certificate as confirmation of the extension of your certificate's expiry date. This will allow you to purchase pesticides from vendors without interruption.

**Required action**

You do not need to take any further action at this time. We appreciate your patience and understanding. If you have any questions or inquiries, please direct them to SDB-PesticideApproval@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherif Hegazy". The signature is stylized with a large initial 'S' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sherif Hegazy  
Director under the *Pesticides Act*

cc: Jamie Sanders, Environmental Assessment and Permissions Division