

News column for use week of December 9, 2024  
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K- State Research and Extension  
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### **New Year Brings Changes to Private Pesticide Applicator Certification**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has required each state to update their certification and training plans, which outline private and commercial pesticide certification in the state. In order to meet these objectives, the Kansas Department of Agriculture introduced House Bill 2607, which was approved by the state legislature making some changes to the private applicator certification.

In the past, individuals were able to come into their local extension office to have an open-book examination administered for new private pesticide applicator certifications for a \$25 fee. Starting January 1, 2025, there will no longer be an open-book exam option for certification. Instead, if applicators would like to receive certification via an exam at the extension office, it will be a closed-book exam.

Other options to receive certification will be to attend an in-person training at one of the annual trainings offered throughout the state, typically at a \$75 registration fee, or to complete an online training hosted in CanvasPro that includes six modules each with review and activities to complete.

More details about additional changes to the pesticide applicator certification procedure is forthcoming. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Luke Byers, River Valley Extension District Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent, at 785-632-5335, or by email at [lsbyers@ksu.edu](mailto:lsbyers@ksu.edu).

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