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GARFIELD COUNTY  
EXTENSION

# AG NEWS



## Ag Pesticide Applicator Updates

Josh Bushong, Area Extension Agronomy Specialist

A major part of producing crops is protecting the crop when needed with use of pesticides, namely herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides. Pesticides are either classified as “restricted use” or “general use” (non-restricted use). To be able to purchase or apply restricted use pesticides a person first must become a certified pesticide applicator. Certified applicators include private applicators, commercial applicators, non-commercial applicators, and service technicians.

There are about a couple dozen pesticide applicator categories offered from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF). Some of note include Ag Plant, Ag Animal, Seed Treatment, Right-of-Way, Fumigation, Aerial, and Private. Farmers who use pesticides on their own or rented farm should pursue a Private Applicator’s License.

To become a certified applicator a person must pass the appropriate ODAFF exams and apply for a license. Other than Private Applicators, applicators must take and pass the core exam prior to taking any of the other category exams. All pesticide applicator exams are now exclusively offered through PSI Services LLC. Historically Private

Applicators could complete a take-home exam. Due to the pandemic, private applicators once again have this option but only temporarily.

All pesticide applicator categories will expire on a five-year cycle, but not all categories expire on the same year. All Private and Ag Plant applicator’s licenses will expire December 31st 2023, regardless of when the applicator became certified. The Seed Treatment and Fumigation categories just expired in 2020. For recertification applicators have two options, either pay to retest or acquire the appropriate number of Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Private applicators are now capable of acquiring CEUs.

*(Continued on page 2)*



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Total CEUs required is specific for each category and are prorated based on when the applicator became certified. For Ag Plant and Private, applicators will need four CEUs per year certified. Applicators cannot acquire CEUs the year they became certified. No more than one-half of the total amount of CEUs needed can be obtained in any one year. If certified for the whole five-year cycle, applicators will need to get CEUs in at least three of the five years. If an applicator passed the Private or Ag Plant exam the fall of 2018 when last cycle expired, they will need a total of 20 CEUs by December 31st, 2023. The total is calculated by multiplying the number of years certified by four. That does not mean they have to get four every year. CEUs obtained in 2018 or earlier will not apply to the current cycle.

They can get a maximum of 10 in any one year. Since they can't get 10 in any one year again, they will need to spread the remaining 10 over two or more years. Hence why it takes a minimum of three years to properly acquire the 20 total CEUs needed.

As another example if an applicator passed the Private or Ag Plant exam in 2020, they would only need 12 total CEUs by December 31st, 2023. Total calculated by multiplying the three years (2021, 2022, 2023) by four. CEU's cannot be obtained in 2020 when certified. They can get a maximum of 10 in any one year. So, they would have to get CEUs in at least two of the three years available.

Pesticide applicators will need to take action this year if they want to avoid retesting. OSU Extension is currently developing some CEU opportunities for later this year. Check with your county Extension office to find out more. There are some other online trainings

available. You can check out the OSU Pesticide Education webpage [PestEd.okstate.edu](http://PestEd.okstate.edu) to find out more about the new testing procedures, how to order applicator study manuals, online trainings available, how to check your CEU status, and many other ODAFF pesticide related links.

Last fall, the dicamba products Engenia by BASF and XtendiMax by Bayer were given five-year registrations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA also extended the registration of Tavium by Syngenta, a premix dicamba and S-metolachlor. Certified Applicators will once again need to attend an annual training to be able to use these products in dicamba-tolerant soybeans and cotton. Because of COVID-19 concerns, training is being offered online this year. Applicators can visit the BASF, Bayer, or Syngenta webpages to access the training pertaining to which product the applicator plans to use.

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## Lice: A Wintertime Threat

*Dr. Meredyth Jones*

When we think about external parasites that affect livestock, we typically think of battling flies and ticks through the summer and consider the winter to be a welcome respite. We do, however, have lice to contend with in the winter.

Lice are wingless insects that live on the skin of various species, including horses, cattle, sheep, goats and, of course, humans. Lice spread via direct contact between animals but are species-specific, meaning they cannot be transmitted across species. Lice that affect cattle cannot affect a horse, sheep or goat or vice versa. And the best news: lice that affect livestock cannot infest humans.

There are two main families of lice: biting (or chewing) and sucking lice. Biting lice feed on skin and skin secretions, while sucking lice have a long, piercing mouthpiece that allows them to draw and feed on blood.

Lice infestations cause intense itching. Livestock can spend a tremendous amount of time rubbing and licking in an effort to alleviate their discomfort. They can spend so much time doing this that it decreases their feed intake, feed efficiency, weight gain and growth, which results in a significant financial hit for the enterprise. Further, sucking lice, because of their ability to drain blood, can cause severe anemia and devastate young calves.

Lice thrive in winter. Their survival and transmission is further enhanced by other factors at play in the wintertime, such as long haircoats and huddling behavior.

The first indications of lice infestations in livestock are excessive rubbing (on things such as fenceposts and buildings) and licking. Remember that healthy cattle naturally groom daily, licking their sides and upsweeping the hair. Lice, however, will induce rubbing and licking to the point of removing the hair and damaging the skin beneath. Hairballs that cause obstructions in the stomach and intestines have occurred in animals due to the extreme grooming that lice can induce. Patchy hair loss typically starts on the neck and back and extends down the sides of the body and legs. Examine animals along the topline to look for the lice or their eggs, which are most easily seen on black hair. As veterinarians, we then do the “Scotch tape test,”

where we stick a piece of tape onto the animal, picking up any lice that are present. Examining the lice on that tape under a microscope lets us look at the mouthpiece, identifying the offending lice as biting or sucking. Classifying the lice helps guide treatment.

Lice cannot survive off the animal for more than a day or so. For this reason, our primary focus for control of these parasites is the animal rather than the environment. Caveats to this include situations where cattle may be sharing tack or bedding, as happens with exhibition animals. A halter taken from one animal and placed on another or an animal placed immediately in a stall just evacuated by another animal are examples of how transmission can occur aside from animal-to-animal contact. Many products are available to control lice, including dusts, sprays, pour-ons and charges for backrubbers. Selection of these products is based on number of animals, facilities, labor and cost. Regardless of the product used, the eggs are not killed, so a repeat treatment is necessary once those eggs have a chance to hatch. This second treatment, done two to three weeks after the first, helps break the life cycle and stops further generations from coming along. All animals in the group need to be treated, regardless of which ones are showing signs of infestation. Be sure to follow the manufacturer’s instructions for product use and follow all withdrawal times.

Some injectable and pour-on dewormers, such as ivermectin and its cousins doramectin and moxidectin, also kill lice. In the winter, worm control is not a high priority because the conditions are not right for transmission. Frequent treatment with dewormers at low transmission times of year encourages the development of populations of worms that are resistant to the drugs. In addition, injectable products only kill sucking lice; biting lice do not ingest blood, which contains the drug.



[https://  
extension.okstate.edu/  
county/garfield/index.html?  
Forwarded=oces/garfield](https://extension.okstate.edu/county/garfield/index.html?Forwarded=oces/garfield)



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY | DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES



## LAHOMA FIELD DAY

May 14, 2021 | 9:00 a.m.

Join the annual Lahoma Field Day to learn about wheat varieties, breeding, disease and management. Register online or through your Extension office to attend in person. A livestream will be available via YouTube. CDC guidelines will be followed by all in-person attendees, including social distancing and face masks. Hand sanitizer and face masks will be provided. If you are feeling unwell, please stay home.

- ▶ **Wheat Breeding and Disease Update**
  - Brett Carver, Wheat Breeder
  - Bob Hunger, Extension Wheat Pathologist
- ▶ **Wheat Varieties**
  - Amanda Silva, Small Grains Extension Specialist
- ▶ **Integrated Weed Management**
  - Misha Manuchehri, Weed Science Extension Specialist

### LOCATION

- ▶ **OSU North Central Research Station**  
Lahoma, OK

### REGISTRATION

- ▶ **Registration required to attend in person:**  
[okstatecasnr.az1.  
qualtrics.com/jfe/form  
SV\\_6szzzrpzQM351ae](https://okstatecasnr.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6szzzrpzQM351ae)

### CONTACT

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**AG RESEARCH**

Hosted by OSU Ag Research and OSU Extension.

Visit us at [agresearch.okstate.edu](https://agresearch.okstate.edu) or [extension.okstate.edu](https://extension.okstate.edu)

**PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER FOR  
THE LAHOMA FIELD DAY  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO ATTEND  
IN PERSON**

[https://okstatecasnr.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6szzzrpzQM351ae](https://okstatecasnr.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6szzzrpzQM351ae)



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