

PESTICIDE SAFETY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANTS

Ontario Pesticide Education Program, University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus

Requirements for Assistants

Assistants who handle Class 2 or 3 pesticides must:

- be 16 years of age or older
- have basic pesticide safety training recognized by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment before they handle or use Class 2 or 3 pesticides
- re-train every 5 years

This applies to anyone who handles Class 2 or 3 pesticides under supervision of a Certified Farmer.

Assistants to a Certified Farmer may:

- mix, load or apply Class 2 or 3 pesticides

Restrictions of Duties

There are some duties that only a Certified Farmer is allowed to do.

Assistants to a Certified Farmer may **not**:

- purchase pesticides
- select or recommend the type of pesticide
- select the rate of application
- select the means of storage, or disposal of empty containers
- calibrate equipment to apply the pesticides
- transport or dispose of waste pesticides, or
- use a Class 2 pesticide that produces a suspension in air in buildings

Training for Assistants

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

- ▶ attend the Grower Pesticide Safety Course (and not write the exam). The course fee is \$105.

or

- ▶ participate in an on-farm training session given by a qualified Assistant Instructor.

To register for an Assistant Instructor Course, please: call 1-800-652-8573. These half day courses qualify you to train your Assistants on the farm. The course fee is \$65. There is a \$25 registration fee for each Assistant you train.

A Certified Farmer may supervise up to 3 Assistants at any given time.

As a Certified Farmer, you are responsible for all pesticide use and handling on your farm. This includes pesticide use and handling by an Assistants you may supervise.

For more information, please contact:

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