Private Applicator Training 2026

Agriculture Institute
DIVISION OF EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

General Information

Private Applicator: A person who applies restricted-use (pesticide label identifies) pesticide to produce an agricultural commodity AND pesticides are applied on property that they own or rent, or their employer owns or rents. If an applicator does not meet BOTH parts of the definition, they are considered commercial applicators. Examples of commercial applicators: Lawn care company or County Highway employee. Commercial applicators must take their certification exam through DATCP.

- *Certification Validity*: Certification is valid for 5 years.
- *Certification Status Check*: Applicators can check certification status here: http://www.kellysolutions.com/WI/Applicators/index.asp.
- *Notifying expiring license holders*: The PAT Program notifies farmers with expiring certifications, but it's the farmer's responsibility to track their status.
- *Contact Information*: For questions, contact patprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu, 608-262-7588, or 414-399-0373.

Training Materials

- Everyone that would like to become Private Pesticide Applicator certified must purchase a manual.
  - Each person must have their own manual, as it includes a unique PAT Number on the certificate found inside the manual (needed when handing in the test). Those retaking within a year do not need the certificate.
  - Manuals cost $43.
- Applicators can only purchase manuals from the PAT Program website: https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/pat/. For mail orders, use this form: Private Applicator Mail Order Form.
- Manuals are delivered within 5-10 days at no charge. There is an additional shipping charge for rush delivery.

LEARNING THE MATERIAL

- *Self-study*:
  - Self-study students purchase the manual, study independently, and test at a designated County Extension Office or Pearson VUE (online). See below for testing info.

- *Self-paced Online Training*:
  - Canvas course is available at PAT website: UW PAT Store
  - Course must be completed for the reduction in passing score. (50% instead of 70%)
  - Online training takes approx. 3.5 hours. Stopping/starting throughout the training is allowed.

- Participants that complete the online training will receive a completion email with their name on it. This has to be presented to the test proctor to be coded as "attended a training." If you choose to test with Pearson Vue testing company, you do not have to show the receipt, but you will have to get 70% to pass.

- ***Extension-hosted Zoom <u>Training</u> (organized and hosted by Regional Crops Educators):***
  - Registration costs $10 and must be completed in advance through the UW PAT Store. Passing requirement is 50%.
  - Students must bring manual with certificate to the training
  - Dates and locations will be posted online.
  - Class is taught by pesticide application training program staff via zoom

- ***In-person <u>Training & Test</u>:***
  - Two in-person trainings will be held in 2026. Registration costs $10 and is available through the UW PAT Program.
  - Details will be posted on the Extension Calendar and UW PAT Program website.

TESTING

Testing is offered at a designated County Extension Office or Pearson VUE online (see below for testing info)

- ***Self-study or Self-paced Online:***
  - **A 70% or higher on the exam is required for self-study.**
  - **A 50% or higher on the exam is required for self-paced (online)**
    - The course completion confirmation email must be **shown to the proctor to be coded as "attended a training."**

- ***County Extension offices (test is proctored by county support staff):***
  - Each Extension Area will designate at least one county to provide testing for self-study individuals.
    - Testing counties and contact info will be posted on the UW PAT Program page.
    - County support staff will set testing schedules based on regional needs, with increased frequency from December to May.
  - Farmers from other counties can take the test at any participating location.

- ***Pearson VUE <u>Testing</u> (online):***
  - Tests can be taken through Pearson VUE for $45, with a 70% passing requirement.

- ***Extension-hosted Zoom Training (organized and hosted by Regional Crops Educator):***
  - Students must have a manual with a certificate to take the test which is proctored by the Regional Crops Educator immediately after training. (50% passing)

- ***In-person <u>Training & Test</u>:***
  - Two in-person trainings will be held in 2026. Registration costs $10 and is available through the UW PAT Program.
  - Details will be posted on the Extension Calendar and UW PAT Program website.