



**PESTICIDE EDUCATION**  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE**

## MDA Pesticide Training Newsletter - January 2022



The Montana Department of Agriculture approves live (in-person/webinar) and online training opportunities for continuing education credits each year for Montana pesticide applicators and dealers. You can search for these courses by using the [MTPlants Course Locator](#) or by going to the [Pesticide Training and Recertification](#) page. Here you will be able to view the Training Events Calendar and a variety of online courses available.

Dealers, Commercial, Non-Commercial, Public Utility, and Government Applicators can earn up to 6 credits each [recertification cycle](#) through approved online training for each category. Below are the classifications expiring on 12/31/2022.

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### Classifications expiring in 2022

Aquatic Pest	Dealer	Forest Pest	Ornamental & Turf
Piscicide	Special Utility	Wood Treatment	

## Vertebrate Pest Specialist Update

Are you on the wildlife control list? If your company provides wildlife control services and wants to obtain referrals, then send Stephen ([svantassel@mt.gov](mailto:svantassel@mt.gov)) the following information:

1. Company name and owner's name
2. Full mailing address and phone number
3. E-mail and website
4. Animals/services you provide (or if simpler, what services you don't provide).
5. Service area (e.g. 30 miles from Bozeman or counties xyz.)



### **BurrowRx and Prairie Dogs**

Last summer, Stephen treated prairie dog burrows with carbon monoxide generated by the BurrowRx machine. He achieved a 93% control rate with a 4 minute injection time at  $\frac{3}{4}$  throttle and a 90% control rate with a 3-minute injection time at full throttle. Stephen found that 83% of the burrows contained only one opening. Maximum distance between two connected openings was 43 feet and the maximum number of connected holes was 5. Stephen suggests applicators treat each burrow for 3 minutes and for each connected opening, add 30 seconds. So if a hole is connected to another, then treat the burrow system for

3½ minutes.

For more information contact Stephen M. Vantassel, CWCP, ACE, Vertebrate Pest Specialist at 406.538.3004 or [svantassel@mt.gov](mailto:svantassel@mt.gov)

Vertebrate Pests

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## Pesticide License Renewal Update

The 2022 renewal season is underway! If you haven't renewed yet, we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to [renew online with an MTPlants account](#). Please see the [linked instructions](#) for additional information. Having your own MTPlants account allows you to keep track of your continuing education credits, trainings attended, and print a duplicate license.

Renewals postmarked after March 1, 2022, will incur a \$25 late fee. Private applicator renewals are not subject to a late fee. It is your responsibility to make sure all of the information is current and accurate on your license and license account.

If you need a duplicate renewal or assistance with the online process, please contact Pesticide Licensing Examiner Specialist Tari Nyland, at 406.444.4900 or [tari.nyland@mt.gov](mailto:tari.nyland@mt.gov).

## Applicator Credit Requirements

Applicators who did not meet the credit requirement for any classification that expired 12/31/21, will need to retest to recertify in order to renew the classification on their license. Please reach out to the [MDA field enforcement staff](#) nearest you to arrange a testing opportunity. Computer-based testing is available through [Metro Institute](#) in Great Falls, Missoula, Bozeman, Butte, Helena, and Glendive. Private applicators should contact their local extension agent [to retest or attend a PAT for recertification](#).

There is no time like the present to consider finishing up or starting those credits for your classification(s) expiring this year.

Check out our [Course Locator](#) or contact Training Development Specialist Leea Anderson at 406.444.5512, if you need assistance finding trainings.

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## Initial Core Training Update

Initial Core Training covers an extensive amount of material and practical exercises to prepare students for the Core exam. The Core study manual is included in the training and testing will be available at the end of the course. In addition, category specific testing will be available upon request during registration. Training fees do not include hotel accommodations. Room blocks have been established at each training location as a courtesy to participants.

Pre-registration is required for all MDA trainings. Class size is limited for each training. Deadline for registration is 7 days before the training or when full, whichever is first, and registration fees must be received by the deadline. Classes may be canceled if minimum registrations are not met or a state of emergency is issued. Bring a photo ID to all trainings.

## Initial Core Training Schedule - In-person

### **Initial Core Training has been scheduled in the following locations:**

Great Falls, March 16-18, 2022, Great Falls MSU

Billings, March 29-31, 2022, Hampton Inn and Suites (Ember Lane)

Missoula, April 20-22, 2022, Hilton Garden Inn (North Reserve Street)

Registration will be available on the <https://agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Training-Recertification-Program> page in February.

For more information contact Lisa Hixson at 406.444.3732 or [lisa.hixson@mt.gov](mailto:lisa.hixson@mt.gov)

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## Online Training Available

Online training is available through the MDA website at <https://agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Training-Recertification-Program> for both initial core and recertification courses.

Initial category preparatory courses are available at the [Certified Training Institute](#) and are intended to help prepare for category exams. Right-of-Way/Regulatory Weed, Ornamental and Turf, Mosquito Control, Wood-Destroying Pest, and General Structural Pest available.

For more information contact Lisa Hixson at 406.444.3732 or [lisa.hixson@mt.gov](mailto:lisa.hixson@mt.gov)

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## Important Pesticide Changes



Effective January 2022

**Rozol Prairie Dog Bait, EPA No. 7173-286 and Kaput Combo Prairie Dog Bait, EPA No. 72500-27, Kaput-D Prairie Dog Bait, EPA No. 72500-22** have undergone immediate labeling changes, to include further restriction(s) for endangered species.

Application in the affected areas, is now limited to **December 1 through March 1 only.**

For a detailed map, please reference the EPA's Bulletins Live! Two for up-to-date restrictions in Montana: <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/bulletins-live-two-view-bulletins>

**These changes are effective immediately;** failure to observe these revisions, may constitute as a violation of the labeling restrictions.



Effective January 11, 2022

“Before registering any *new active ingredient(s)*, EPA will evaluate the potential effects on listed species and their designated critical habitats and initiate ESA (Endangered Species Act) consultation with the Services, as appropriate....If the EPA determines that jeopardy or adverse modification is likely, the agency will only make a registration decision on the new AI (active ingredient) *after* requiring registrants to implement mitigation measures that EPA determines would likely prevent jeopardy or adverse modification.”

More information pertaining to this News Release, can be found online at: <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/progress-toward-protections-federally-listed-species>.

For more information or questions, please contact Shaunie Aklestad at 406.444.5474 or [ShaunieAklestad@mt.gov](mailto:ShaunieAklestad@mt.gov)

## National Pesticide Safety Education Month

The purpose of National Pesticide Safety Education Month is to reinforce core principles of safe pesticide use with many audiences and raise awareness of and support for the land-grant university Pesticide Safety Education Programs (PSEPs).

Check out the [National Pesticide Safety Education](#) website to learn more information.

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## Upcoming Private Applicator Events



**Pesticide Education Webinar Series** - The Pesticide Education Webinar Series offers one-hour presentations monthly from January to April on pesticide and pest management related topics for applicators across the state of Montana. Each

webinar is worth one credit and is free to attend. Please register for each individual webinar [online. \[pesticides.montana.edu\]](https://pesticides.montana.edu)

**2022 PAT Core, February 22-23, 2022, Billings** - The 2022 PAT Core is a train-the-trainer event focusing on the core concepts of private applicator pesticide use while delivering tools to train private pesticide applicators within your organization. New MSU Extension agents with PAT responsibilities are encouraged to attend this training. Weed District representatives, MSU Extension Specialists, MDA staff or veteran MSU Extension Agents are also welcome to attend. [Details are available online. \[pesticides.montana.edu\]](https://pesticides.montana.edu)

**2022 PEP Update, April 7-8, 2022, Bozeman** - The 2022 PEP Update is a train-the-trainer update for MSU Extension staff, MDA staff, Weed District representatives and other government and private pesticide leaders across the state. Topics include changes to the PAT program, advanced pesticide topics, new research and technology, and pesticide related news and events. [Details are available online. \[pesticides.montana.edu\]](https://pesticides.montana.edu)

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## Request for Photos



The MDA is asking pesticide applicators and the general public for digital photos to help us illustrate our training materials.

What do we need? In short, everything! Okay, not everything, but a lot. Specifically, we need photos both close up and in landscape views of:

- Plants, including weeds, crops, damaged plants, ornamentals, etc. including the plants in different growth stages.
- Equipment: farming, pest control equipment and supplies, people working the fields (no photos of minors).
- Animals, including farm animals, pets, wildlife, pest species
- Insects, including close ups, pest insects, non-pest insects,

- Habitat and landscapes: urban areas, farming, suburban, forests, fields, ROWs, ornamental and turfs,
- If you are unsure, take the photo and send it along. We are looking to update our training in Right of Way (ROW), Agricultural Plant, and Ornamental and Turf. This is your chance to help the MDA improve the quality of our training as we update our materials.

Photos should be in focus and at least 1 megabyte (1000k) or greater in size, but no larger than 10 mg. Please include your contact info in case we need to ask questions about the photo. Send photos to [svantassel@mt.gov](mailto:svantassel@mt.gov) along with your name, permission and a description of the photo (e.g. name of the plant if you know it).

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## Pesticide Program Contacts

**Program Manager** - Rory Ruffner 406.444.3676 [Rory.Ruffner@mt.gov](mailto:Rory.Ruffner@mt.gov)

**Pesticide Licensing Examiner Specialist** - Tari Nyland 406.444.4900  
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**Pesticide Registration Specialist** - Shaunie Aklestad 406.444.5471  
[ShaunieAklestad@mt.gov](mailto:ShaunieAklestad@mt.gov)

**Vertebrate Pest Specialist** - Stephen M. Vantassel 406.538.3004  
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**Training Development Specialist** - Leea Anderson 406.444.5512  
[leeaanderson@mt.gov](mailto:leeaanderson@mt.gov)

**Pesticide Education Specialist** - Lisa Hixson 406.444.3732 [lisa.hixson@mt.gov](mailto:lisa.hixson@mt.gov)



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