



## Agricultural Fertilizer Application

Certification website: <https://ag.purdue.edu/departments/extension/ppp/commercial-applicators/certification/how-do-i-get-certified.html>

### Credential Summary

Commercial for-hire fertilizer applicators and businesses using commercial fertilizers or manure from a confined feeding operation (CFO) in the production of agricultural crops. Once certified, a commercial Category 14 fertilizer applicator must become licensed in order to legally use (apply, handle, transport) or supervise the use of commercial fertilizers or manure from a CFO (Confined Feeding Operation) for hire. Licensing refers to the issuance of a wallet-size license (credential).

### Overview

- **Related Instructional Hours:** 24
- **Exam details:** Pesticide Core exam followed by Category 14 Agricultural Fertilizer Application
  - May attempt up to 3 times in a 12-month period
- **Third party testing provider:** Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc (AMP)
- **Exam cost:** \$100
- **Renewal details:** Certification is valid for 5 years, expiring December 31 of the fourth year following the year of qualification
  - Can renew for another 5 years by repeating the examination process or accumulating at least 3 category 14 continuing certification hours (CCHs) by attending approved recertification programs.

### Job Opportunities

- **Relevant SOC codes**
  - Pesticide Handlers, Sprayers, and Applicators, Vegetation 37-3012
- **Demand information**
  - Average flame ranking = 3.10/5
- **Average Wages**
  - \$42,660 (20.51 per hour)  
(Average wages pulled as of October 2023)

### Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies

- Fertilizer application planning and storage
- Application equipment maintenance
- Transportation
- Application techniques
- Environmental concerns

### Post Secondary Relevance

- **Next level programs of study**
  - Plant and Soil Science
  - Food Science



- Advanced Life Science: Foods
- Advanced Life Science, Plants and Soils
- Agricultural Biotechnology