

Pesticide Applicator Recertification Count Down

By Darrell Hensley - 3/9/2026

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA), Pesticide Section is the regulatory agency for pesticide use in Tennessee. Farmers, greenhouse and nursery operators must become certified to use restricted use pesticides and individuals who work for companies which provide pest control services must be certified to apply pesticide products.

Pesticide certification issued by TDA runs in three-year cycle. The current cycle began July 1, 2023 and ends June 30, 2026. However, for applicators to maintain certification past 2026, they are required to obtain Continuing Education Units (CEUs) aka points or retake and pass an exam.

For private applicator to maintain their certification, they must obtain 3 Continuing Education Units (CEU) or points during the 3-year certification cycle. The CEU requirement is dependent on when a private applicator obtained certification. If certification was obtained in year one, then 3 points would be required to extend their certification into the new 3-year cycle. If certification was obtained in year two of the cycle, then only 2 points would be required to roll certification into the next 3-year cycle. If certification was obtained in year three of the cycle only one point would be required to extend their certification into the next 3 year cycle.

For private applicators to obtain certification points / CEUs one must attend approved trainings commonly offered by Extension Offices or through Extension's Online-Learning Management System, aka K@TE.

During early 2026, TDA made a decision on 1/20/2026, indicating that any individuals completing the initial private applicator training between January 20, 2026 and June 30, 2026 would be automatically moved forward to the next certification cycle ending June 30, 2029. Private applicators **would not be** required to obtain 1 point between January 1 and June 30, 2026. Private applicators would receive their pesticide certification card with a June 30, 2029 expiration date printed on it.

For commercial applicators, if you took a commercial applicator certification exam and passed it on or after 2/23/2026, your certification will be valid until 6/30/2029, and the previous point requirement from 2/23/26 til 6/30/2026 would be waived. However, to maintain certification past June 30, 2029, a commercial applicator would be required to accrue a specific number of CEU's which would be dependent of the certification category one obtains.

If you have any question concerning your certification or points you may check TDA's website at: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/pesticides.html> or contact them via phone at 615-837-5148