Pesticide Safety Education Program
ANNUAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 1, 2025– AUGUST 31, 2026

University of Vermont Extension
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

HOSTED EVENTS (attendees)

- 2025 Pest Management Professionals Meeting. West Lebanon, New Hampshire. 10/14/25 (146)
  Vermont's annual training for pest management professionals
  https://www.uvm.edu/d10-files/documents/2025-08/PSEP_PMP25.pdf

  IMPACTS:
  - 100% moderate/considerable (4% increase) general knowledge about Pesticide Storage and Transportation
  - 99% moderate/considerable (23% increase) general knowledge about Technician Field Tips for Bed Bugs and Wood Destroying Organisms
  - 94% moderate/considerable (32% increase) general knowledge about Backyard Mosquito Management
  - 90% moderate/considerable (32% increase) general knowledge about Current Concerns From Backyard Tick and Mosquito Treatments
  - 97% moderate/considerable (9% increase) general knowledge about What's New for Rodent Exclusion, Prevention & Control
  - 78% moderate/considerable (228% increase) general knowledge about Drone Use in Pest Management
  - 92% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
  - 85% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
  - "I did not know blower diffusers effect droplet size. This will help me manage drift."
  - "I will be much more cognizant of direction of spray, wind speed/direction when applying with mist blower."
  - "I learned more about the IPM of bed bugs/bat bugs and what to look for and to plan for."
  - "Focus more on mistaken identity and not treating a pest that is not there or mistaken for common larder or carpet beetles."
  - "The shared knowledge of diverse pests is particularly helpful in raising awareness of pest issues and the level of intensity and challenges in treating."

SUCCESS STORY: 2025 Pest Management Professionals Meeting

Certified structural and vector (e.g. mosquitos, ticks) pesticide applicators in New England must earn recertification (i.e. continuing education) credits to maintain certification. Certification ensures proper and legal use of pesticides that reduces potential risk to human health and the environment. The extensive variety of structural and vector pests and emerging management approaches and technology require continuous education to improve pesticide use practices. Additionally, the structural and vector audience is the largest sector of certified pesticide applicators in Vermont, yet the nomadic, individual nature of client-site work does not allow operators to interact often with each other, especially outside their local geographic area.

The 2025 Pest Management Professionals Meeting hosted by the University of Vermont Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets provided continuing education and networking opportunities for both structural and vector pesticide applicators from throughout New England. The in-person meeting was held in a West Lebanon, New Hampshire meeting location to allow greater participant access. The meeting location and expanded focus of presented materials for a broader audience along with introduction of online registration is a continuation of meeting updates introduced through a new hosting partnership in 2024.

The number of participants attending the annual Pest Management Professionals Meeting in 2025 was consistent with the record number achieved in 2024, indicating sustained interest in the updated meeting among attendees from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The presented materials provided valuable continuing education resulting in a 55% average increase in knowledge across presented subject areas, including a notable 228% increase in knowledge of drone use in pest management. 92% of participants are likely to apply and use pesticides more safely as a result with 85% likely to adopt at least one new Integrated Pest Management practice. Better understanding of pest identification, mist blower drift management, and awareness of diverse pests management challenges were cited as results of meeting presentations, reducing potential risk to human health and the environment. Additionally, participants stated that this meeting was "good for networking as well as random tidbits that I hadn't picked up elsewhere" highlighting the value of providing the opportunity for this diverse audience to interact with each other. The University of Vermont Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program continues to work closely with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets to provide education resources for structural and vector pesticide applicators.

- 2025 Back to Basics Core Essentials Webinar Series. Live online. 10/28/25, 11/4/25, 11/11/25, 11/18/25 (115)
  Weekly reviews of Core Manual content for ALL Vermont certified applicators
  https://www.uvm.edu/d10-files/documents/2025-08/PSEP_B2B25.pdf

  IMPACTS:
  - 98% average moderate/considerable (11% increase) general knowledge about Integrated Pest Management, Pesticide Movement in the Environment, Protecting Pollinators, Pesticide Risk and Response, Personal Protection Equipment, Pesticide Labels, Pesticide Formulations, Equipment Calibration, Pesticide Mixing and Loading, Pesticide Regulations, Pesticide Storage and Transportation, Pesticide Security and Emergency Response
  - 98% average moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
  - 85% average moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
  - "This was helpful for a review of basic operations that often get forgotten about or overlooked."
  - "Great reminder to remain steadfast in IPM instead of relying on chemicals too much!"
  - "I like the 1-hour multiple series, easy to hop on and learn without taking up an entire day."
  - "This class helped me understand the importance of knowing how to calculate the right formulations of products before application."

  Attendee Poll Data:
  101 applicators
  136 licenses
  12 Categories

- 10 1A-Agricultural Plant
- 23 2-Forest
- 10 3A-Ornamental and Shade Tree
- 40 3B-Turf
- 3 5-Aquatic
- 19 6-Right of Way
- 13 7A-General (Structural)
- 3 7B-Vector Pest
- 6 10-Demonstration, Research and Sales
- 3 14-Terrestrial Invasive Plant Pest Control
- 4 Private 2-Tree Fruit
- 2 Private 3-Small Fruit and Vegetable

- 2026 Pesticide Applicator Education Winter Webinar Series. Live online. 3/3/26, 3/10/26, 3/17/26, 3/24/26, 3/31/26 (214)
  Weekly updates on pest management and pesticide safety practices in agriculture, horticulture, and outdoor sites for certified applicators
  https://www.uvm.edu/d10-files/documents/2025-12/PSEP_VTWW26.pdf

  IMPACTS:
  - 88% moderate/considerable (156% increase) general knowledge about The Endangered Species Act and Pesticide Labels
  - 93% moderate/considerable (108% increase) general knowledge about PFAS and Pesticides
  - 98% moderate/considerable (40% increase) general knowledge about Pesticide Disposal
  - 82% moderate/considerable (63% increase) general knowledge about Insects and Mites in Trees and Shrubs
  - 96% moderate/considerable (41% increase) general knowledge about Tree Diseases and Outlook
  - 81% average moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
  - 75% average moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
  - “Understanding more about the bulletins and requirements was very helpful and will feed into our organization's IPM policy.”
  - “PFOS can be in the packaging so I may not try to hold products for extended periods so less time in the packaging.”
  - “Great info on proper disposal, and verifying how important it is to triple rinsing, puncturing jug and removing caps before disposal.”
  - “Incredibly useful info on key insect pests in the area and their life cycles, helping to better understanding how to control them with and without pesticide intervention.”
  - “I loved learning about alternate strategies to spraying fungicides, especially the importance of pruning!”

  Attendee Poll Data:
  157 applicators
  231 licenses
  14 Categories
  - 27 1A-Agricultural Plant
  - 45 2-Forest
  - 46 3A-Ornamental and Shade Tree
  - 39 3B-Turf

- 4 5-Aquatic
- 16 6-Right of Way
- 8 7B-Vector Pest (Mosquito, Tick)
- 23 10-Demonstration, Research and Sales
- 2 Private 1-Animal and Livestock
- 5 Private 2-Tree Fruit
- 4 Private 3-Small Fruit and Vegetable
- 7 Private 4-Plant Propagation
- 1 Private 5-Aquaculture
- 4 Private 6-Field Crops

SUCCESS STORY: 2025-2026 Pesticide Applicator Education Webinar Series

Certified pesticide applicators in New England must earn recertification (i.e. continuing education) credits to maintain certification. Certification ensures proper and legal use of pesticides that reduces potential risk to human health and the environment. Recertification credits are earned by attending approved meetings or courses that often have travel costs, reducing accessibility. Many of these events are for specific trades (e.g. tree fruit, structural, etc.), further reducing options for outlying categories (e.g. aquaculture, right of way, etc.). Additionally, all pesticide applicator audiences benefit from periodic reminder review of core pesticide use principles and practices in addition to trade or category specific training. The existing annual recertification credit virtual meeting for certified agricultural and outdoor pesticide applicators did not include a broader pesticide applicator audience and the single day multi-hour time commitment was challenging to participants.

The new 2025 Back to Basics Core Essentials Webinar Series (four events) and the 2026 Pesticide Applicator Winter Webinar Series (five events), both sponsored by the University of Vermont Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, provided continuing education for all pesticide applicator audiences as well as a variety of outdoor-specific (e.g. agricultural, ornamental, forest, etc.) pesticide applicators including outlying categories that have fewer options for credits. Participants were able to select as met their needs from multiple live one-hour virtual events in each series that were available to a broad audience throughout New England.

A record number of participants attended the 2026 Pesticide Applicator Winter Webinar Series, a 55% increase over the previous one-day virtual meeting, with attendees from all six New England states, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The presented materials provided valuable continuing education for a broad audience. Participants in 2025 Back to Basics Core Essentials Webinar Series attended from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. The presented materials provided valuable review of core pesticide use principles and practices for all pesticide applicator audiences. 95% of participants increased knowledge on average across presented subject areas. 90% of participants are likely to apply and use pesticides more safely as a result with 80% likely to adopt at least one new Integrated Pest Management practice. Appreciation for review of IPM principles, better understanding of endangered species protection requirements, PFAS and container disposal, alternate pest management strategies, and were cited as results of webinar presentations, reducing potential risk to human health and the environment. Additionally, participants stated that webinars were “easy to hop on and learn without taking up an entire day” highlighting the value of short-format continuing education opportunities.

- 2026 Initial Pesticide Certification Meeting. Live hybrid. 4/7/26 (35)
  - Rutland (7), Brattleboro (10), St. Johnsbury (6), Burlington (12), Vermont.
  Review of the Northeast Core Manual followed by the Vermont Pesticide Applicator Core Exam
  https://www.uvm.edu/d10-files/documents/2025-12/PSEP_CORE26.pdf

  IMPACTS:
  - 84% pass rate (in-state average 66%)
  - 100% moderately/well prepared (+37%, 58% increase) to take the exam following the review session
  - 100% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
  - 94% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
  - 89% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice to protect pollinators
  - "The opportunity to ask questions at the end of each session was extremely beneficial to me in order to clarify some of the content."
  - "This meeting made the info easier to understand for me."
  - "Very useful vs. studying Core Manual alone!"

  Exam results:
  - 31 exams administered
  - 5 failed
  - 84% pass rate

SUCCESS STORY: 2026 Initial Pesticide Certification Meeting

All prospective pesticide applicators in the state of Vermont must understand the Northeast Core Manual and inserts to pass the Vermont Pesticide Applicator Core Exam required to become certified. Certification ensures proper and legal use of pesticides that reduces potential risk to human health and the environment. Pesticide applicators are expected to study on their own prior to taking the exam and schedule their exam separately. The length and breadth of the information, much of which is new to the applicant, is a challenge to effective learning and does not provide relatable context. The reading-based self-study is not inclusive of alternate learning styles. Certification, exams, and pesticide use are regulated exclusively by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets and employs regional Resource Management Specialists to support pesticide applicator understanding and compliance with regulations. Many pesticide applicators do not recognize their regional specialist as a support resource and are only familiar through enforcement actions that could be avoided with improved communication.

The 2026 Initial Pesticide Certification Meeting hosted by the University of Vermont Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets provided an in-person review of the Northeast Core Manual followed by the Vermont Pesticide Applicator Core Exam. While this review was not intended as a substitute for self-study, it did cover the majority of information necessary to understand and pass the exam. The material was presented in lecture format with modules of similar content areas, plentiful references and examples, and opportunity for questions and answers. Additional material was presented to provide further detail on areas of known difficulty for new applicators. The live hybrid meetings were held at four regional sites throughout the state to allow greater participant access. On-site assistance by the regional Resource Management Specialist provided a positive introduction and acknowledgement of support services available for new applicators.

The 2026 Initial Pesticide Certification Meeting review session presentation module arrangement, examples, and support from on-site Resource Management Specialists provided relatable context to reinforce and supplement manual information. “The opportunity to ask questions at the end of each session was extremely beneficial to me in order to clarify some of the content.” 100% of participants are likely to apply and use pesticides more safely as a result with 89% likely to adopt at least one new Integrated Pest Management practice to protect pollinators. The hybrid in-person lecture format accommodated audio/visual and social learning styles to improve information retention. Participants were 58% more prepared to take the exam following the review session. The pairing of the review with immediate exam administration directly applied the learned information and reduced exam anxiety, ensuring exam completion with an 84% pass rate, an 8% increase from 2024 and a 27% increase from the in-state average of 66% pass rate.

- Introduction to FieldWatch Registries & DriftWatch Webinar. Live online. 4/21/26 (29)
  Review the new platform to strengthen communication, promote cooperation, and connect crop producers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators for certified applicators
  https://www.uvm.edu/d10-files/documents/2026-03/PSEP_FieldWatch26.pdf

  IMPACTS:
  - 90% moderate/considerable (350% increase) general knowledge about FieldWatch
  - 85% yes/maybe plan to create a FieldWatch account
  - 88% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
  - 71% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
  - “Very useful to see how tech can benefit the applicator, land owners and environment.”
  - “This was a very informative meeting; I gained access to information that I didn't know existed.”

  Attendee Poll Data:
  20 applicators
  24 licenses
  10 Categories
  - 8 1A-Agricultural Plant
  - 4 2-Forest
  - 2 3A-Ornamental and Shade Tree
  - 3 3B-Turf
  - 1 6-Right of Way
  - 2 10-Demonstration, Research and Sales
  - 1 Private 1-Animal and Livestock
  - 1 Private 3-Small Fruit and Vegetable
  - 1 Private 4-Plant Propagation
  - 1 Private 6-Field Crops

- University of Vermont ALE3990C: Pesticide Application Training. Burlington, Vermont. Wednesdays 1/14/26-4/29/26 (10)
  In-depth review of the Northeast Core Manual and hands-on activities to strengthen understanding of pesticide use followed by the Vermont Pesticide Applicator Core Exam

  IMPACTS:
  - 100% pass rate (in-state average 66%)
  - 100% moderate/considerable (29-350% increase) general knowledge about IPM and how pesticide use fits into an IPM program; Federal and state regulations that govern pesticide use; Potential environmental hazards (drift, soil, water, pollinators, resistance);

Potential human hazards (toxicity, PPE, first aid, residues); Transport, storage, waste disposal, emergency planning, pesticide security; Calibration and calculations that improve pesticide delivery; Career opportunities in pesticide-related fields

- 100% moderate/considerable (29-800% increase) general knowledge about Pests and Pesticides; Integrated Pest Management; Federal Pesticide Regulations; Vermont Pesticide Regulations; Pesticide Storage and Transportation; Pesticide Security and Emergency Response; Pesticide Movement in the Environment; Protecting Pollinators; Pesticide Toxicity and Risk; Personal Protection Equipment; Pesticide First Aid; Pesticide Communication; The Pesticide Label; Pesticide Formulations; Pesticide Rate Calculations
- 89% moderate/considerable (167-700% increase) general knowledge about Pesticide Mixing and Loading; Respirator Fit Testing; Pesticide Equipment Calibration
- 100% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
- 100% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
- "I learned how to understand pesticide labels and use them properly to ensure proper application."
- "I learned many topics in depth that I would not have been able to learn on my own."
- "I gained a valuable skill that will go on my resume and I feel more equipped for an agricultural career having this knowledge."

Exam results:

- 10 exams administered
- 0 failed
- 100% pass rate

- Vermont State University: Pesticide Applicator Certification Training. Randolph, Vermont. 6/8/26-6/9/26 (11)
  In-depth review of the Northeast Core Manual and hands-on activities to strengthen understanding of pesticide use followed by the Vermont Pesticide Applicator Core Exam
  https://www.uvm.edu/d10-files/documents/2026-04/PSEP_VSU26.pdf

  IMPACTS:

  - 100% pass rate (in-state average 66%)
  - 100% moderate/considerable (10-267% increase) general knowledge about Pests and Pesticides, Integrated Pest Management, Pesticide Storage and Transportation, Pesticide Security and Emergency Response, Professional Conduct and Liability, Pesticide Movement in the Environment, Protecting Pollinators, Personal Protection Equipment, The Pesticide Label
  - 91% moderate/considerable (43-233% increase) general knowledge about Pesticide Regulations and Worker Protection Standard, Pesticide Toxicity and Risk, Pesticide First Aid, Pesticide Formulations, Pesticide Rate Calculations, Pesticide Mixing and Loading, Pesticide Equipment Calibration
  - 90% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
  - 90% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
  - "The design of the course was concise but also fun and great prep for the test."
  - "I think what I unlearned is as important as what I learned; even the bits I did think I knew were riddled with false assumptions and misinformation"
  - "A strong foundation helps build good habits early."

SUCCESS STORY: 2026 Vermont State University Pesticide Applicator Certification Training

All prospective pesticide applicators in the state of Vermont must understand the Northeast Core Manual and inserts to pass the Vermont Pesticide Applicator Core Exam required to become certified. Certification ensures proper and legal use of pesticides that reduces potential risk to human health and the environment. Pesticide applicators are expected to study on their own prior to taking the exam and schedule their exam separately. The length and breadth of the information, much of which is new to the applicant, is a challenge to effective learning and does not provide relatable context. The reading-based self-study is not inclusive of alternate learning styles. One annual in-person manual review and exam meeting has historically been available for pesticide applicator certification in Vermont, often at maximum capacity and unable to meet demand. The one-day, hybrid format additionally does not allow for hands-on activities.

The new 2026 Pesticide Applicator Certification Training hosted by the University of Vermont Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program and Vermont State University provided an extended two-day in-person review of the Northeast Core Manual followed by the Vermont Pesticide Applicator Core Exam. While this review was not intended as a substitute for self-study, it did cover the majority of information necessary to understand and pass the exam. The material was presented in lecture format with modules of similar content areas, plentiful references and examples, and opportunity for questions and answers. Additional materials and hands-on activities were presented to provide further detail on areas of known difficulty for new applicators.

The 2026 Pesticide Applicator Certification Training extended two-day format allowed for in-depth review to strengthen understanding of pesticide use: “I think what I unlearned is as important as what I learned; even the bits I did think I knew were riddled with false assumptions and misinformation.” The presentation module arrangement, references and examples, and hands-on activities provided relatable context to reinforce and supplement manual information. 96% of participants increased knowledge on average across presented subject areas. 90% of participants are likely to adopt at least one new Integrated Pest Management practice and apply and use pesticides more safely as a result. The in-person lecture format accommodated audio/visual and social learning styles to improve information retention: “The design of the course was concise but also fun and great prep for the test.” The pairing of the review with immediate exam administration directly applied the learned information and reduced exam anxiety, ensuring exam completion with a notable 100% pass rate, a 52% increase from the in-state average of 66% pass rate.

PRESENTATIONS (attendees)

- Practical Pesticide Use. Tri-State IPM Series: Practical Solutions for Greenhouse IPM. Live online. 1/16/26 (75) https://www.uvm.edu/~entlab/Greenhouse%20IPM/Workshops/2026/Program%20IPM%20Workshop%202026.pdf
- Low Risk Pesticides. Extension Master Gardener Helpline Spring Training. Live online. 3/17/26
- Northeast Core Manual Review. Initial Pesticide Certification Meeting. Live hybrid. Burlington, Brattleboro, Rutland, St. Johnsbury, Vermont. 4/7/26 (35)
- University of Vermont ALE3990C: Pesticide Application Training. Burlington, Vermont. Wednesdays 1/14/26-4/29/26 (10)
    - See Hosted Events

***THE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR* NEWSLETTER**

Biannual newsletter for Vermont's pesticide applicators from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets and University of Vermont Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program

- Fall 2025 https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/TPA_Fall2025.pdf
- Spring 2026 https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/TPA_Spring2026.pdf

  IMPACTS:
  - 1733 subscribers
  - Fall 2025: 145 subscribers (8%) submitted 290 quizzes @1 credit each
  - Spring 2026: 95 subscribers (5%) submitted 190 quizzes @1 credit each

ARTICLES, FACT SHEETS & VIDEOS

Relevant information for proper and legal use and understanding of pesticides

- Back to Basics Core Essentials: Toxicity and Exposure. The Pesticide Applicator Report, Fall 2025 https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/TPA_Fall2025.pdf
- Back to Basics Core Essentials: Application Rate Calculation -Product vs. Active Ingredient. The Pesticide Applicator Report, Spring 2026 https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/TPA_Spring2026.pdf

PESTICIDE CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Ensure pesticide credit approval, verify participant attendance requirements for credit, issue credit certificates, notify State Lead Agencies of credits issued

- 2025 Back to Basics Core Essentials Webinar Series (4 events)
  - 163 VT certificates @ 1 credit each
  - 42 participants certified
- 2026 Pesticide Applicator Education Winter Webinar Series (5 events)
  - 232 VT certificates @ 1 credit each
  - 67 participants certified
- FieldWatch Information Session, live online 4/21/26
  - 21 VT certificates @1 credit each
  - 21 participants certified

ON-DEMAND ONLINE TRAINING (participants)

Resources to help study for pesticide applicator exams and/or to provide recertification credits for certified pesticide applicators

https://www.uvm.edu/extension/pesticide-safety-education-program-online-courses

- Vermont Pesticide Safety Education: Core Manual Review (no credit) (45)

  IMPACTS:
  - 80% moderately/very prepared to take the exam (261% increase)
  - 97% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
  - 91% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice

- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 3B Manual Review (no credit) (12)
  IMPACTS:
  - 64% moderately/very comfortable to take the exam (250% increase)
  - 77% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
  - 92% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 7A Manual Review (no credit) (13)
  IMPACTS:
  - 94% moderately/very comfortable to take the exam (112% increase)
  - 95% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
  - 86% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 7C Manual Review (no credit) (7)
  IMPACTS:
  - 100% moderately/very comfortable to take the exam (300% increase)
  - 100% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
  - 100% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice
  - "Good information"
- Vermont Pesticide Education: Category 7F Manual Review (no credit) (1)
  - 100% moderately/very likely to apply and use pesticides more safely
  - 100% moderately/very likely to adopt at least one new IPM practice

SUCCESS STORY: Vermont Pesticide Safety Education On-Demand Online Training

All prospective pesticide applicators in the state of Vermont must understand the Northeast Core Manual and inserts to pass the Vermont Pesticide Applicator Core Exam required to become certified. Commercial and Non-commercial pesticide applicators must also understand the manual and pass exams in their specific application categories (e.g. agriculture, turf, structural, etc.) to complete their certification. Certification ensures proper and legal use of pesticides that reduces potential risk to human health and the environment. Pesticide applicators are expected to study on their own prior to taking an exam and resources to help study are limited or have travel costs that reduce accessibility. The length and breadth of the information, much of which is new to the applicant, is a challenge to effective learning and does not provide relatable context. The reading-based self-study is not inclusive of alternate learning styles

The on-demand University of Vermont Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program Manual Review Online Courses provide review of Core and category manual content to help study for pesticide applicator exams through Extension Campus, part of the national Cooperative Extension System. While a review course is not intended as a substitute for self-study, it does cover the majority of information necessary to understand and pass the exam. Material for each course is presented as modules of similar content areas through video presentations with plentiful references and examples, reference materials, and practice quizzes that may be viewed at the participant's own pace and full completion is not required. The online format is available to anyone using the manual for their state pesticide applicator certification. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets endorses of the courses through their pesticide applicator resources and exam registration system.

A record number of participants enrolled in Vermont Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program Online Manual Review Courses in 2026, a 24% increase over the previous year. The review presentation module arrangement and examples provided relatable context to reinforce and supplement manual information. 94% of participants on average across all courses are likely to apply

and use pesticides more safely as a result with 94% likely to adopt at least one new Integrated Pest Management practice. The module video format accommodates audio/visual learning styles to improve information retention and practice quizzes improve confidence applying the information to the exam. Participants were more prepared to take the exam with a 231% increase in confidence following the review on average across all courses. Additional manual review on-demand online training courses will be developed to further expand the study resources available to pesticide applicators.

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