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Nutrient Application Training Required by Custom Applicators

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Did you know that all custom applicators (technicians) of nutrients will be required to obtain a Nutrient Application Technician's License before their first application of nutrients this spring?

This license came into effect December 31, 2006. It is currently required by all custom applicators of nutrients, which include commercial fertilizers, manure and biosolids materials, in order to land apply these nutrients to land which you do not own, or where you are not the operator or employee of that farm operation, and where that farm requires a provincial nutrient management plan (typically farms with 300 or more nutrient units) as defined in the Nutrient Management Act (NMA). It does not apply to those farms only requiring a nutrient management strategy. This license is issued to the individuals performing the actual land application activities and is valid for five years. The individual is required to complete a course which consists of a workbook and a video and must also write and pass an exam. The course will be delivered by OMAFRA staff on a seasonal basis but can also be delivered by an individual within the company who has a valid Prescribed Materials Application Business License (PMABL).

Anyone who is engaged in the custom land application business of "prescribed

materials" under the NMA, such as manure and biosolids, must have a PMABL to apply them to farms requiring a provincial nutrient management plan. A Brokers Certificate is also required if "prescribed materials" are transported from a Generator (those farms that produce agricultural source materials such as manure or those industries or waste water treatment plants that land apply non-agricultural source materials such as sewage biosolids) to a Receiver (an individual utilizing the above mentioned materials on land). This applies to all those

Management Practices (BMP's)

- Proper equipment calibration, operation and maintenance
- Staying abreast of current legislation including NMA, Highway Traffic Act and Health and Safety Act
- Accurate record keeping and contingency planning
- Applying Standard Operational Procedures (SOP's)
- Following Nutrient Management Plan and/or site Certificate of Approval conditions

The land application of nutrients in Ontario is well



Tractor and drag hose system land applying nutrients (sewage biosolids) on agricultural land.

operations that are phased in under the NMA.

The training, certification and licensing will allow operators to stay current in their field of expertise and follow Performance Guidelines as developed by OMAFRA which include the following:

- Adoption of Best

regulated. The training, certification and licensing is most welcome by the professionals within the land application industry. Licensing technicians ensures that all nutrients continue to be land applied responsibly thereby protecting our soil and water resources.

Mark Janiec is a Certified Crop Adviser employed as the Land Application Manager with Terratec Environmental Ltd.

There are over 500 Certified Crop Advisers (CCA) in Ontario. Each CCA has demonstrated their knowledge about Ontario crop production by passing the required exams. In addition, they have the crop advisory experience, the education, the commitment to continuing education and have signed a comprehensive code of ethics, which places the grower's interests first.

This industry driven program helps ensure that Ontario crop producers are well served by those providing their crop production advice. This article was written by one of those CCA's.



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