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## Commercial pesticide applicator training

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# Commercial pesticide applicator training

## **Abstract**

All commercial pesticide applicators must take exams in order to become initially certified, and some choose to become recertified by exam rather than by attending continuing instructional courses. With the arrival of Asian soybean rust in this country, many commercial applicators are considering adding agricultural diseases (category 1C) to their certification so that they can apply fungicides. Two training sessions designed to help prepare individuals for the commercial pesticide applicator examinations will be offered in southeast Iowa.

## **Keywords**

Agronomy

## **Disciplines**

Agricultural Education | Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Agronomy and Crop Sciences

that produced statistically maximum yield of corn did not change consistently over time. Analyses of yields in Figure 2 indicated that rates of 80, 160, and 240 lb N/acre resulted in statistically maximum yield of corn after corn 25, 67, and 8 percent of the years. Cumulative effects of small, nonstatistically significant responses determined that the 240-lb rate maximized yield for long-term averages. With corn after soybean, rates of 80 and 160 lb N/acre resulted in maximum yield 58 and 33 percent of the years, respectively, while 240 lb N/acre never increased yield further, and there was no response to applied N in 9 percent of the years.

The corn responses to N rates shown in this article must be interpreted with caution; although the responses reflect many years of cropping, the data come from a single location. Results of other studies evaluating the response of continuous corn and first-year corn after

soybean using more N rates may better reflect the most likely economic optimum N rates for these rotations. For example, see the article “Nitrogen fertilization for corn following corn” on pages 27–28 and the Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator Web tool (<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/nrate.aspx>).

In many years, unknown rotation effects resulted in higher yield for corn after soybean than for corn after corn even with the highest N rate used. This difference became larger in recent years. First-year corn after soybean needed significantly lower N rates than corn after corn. Continuous corn and second- or third-year corn after soybean had statistically similar yield and N fertilizer requirements. Producers thinking of planting two or three corn crops after soybean should be aware that N fertilizer rates for these crops are likely as high as for continuous corn.

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## Pesticide Education

# Commercial pesticide applicator training

by Jim Fawcett, Iowa State University Extension

All commercial pesticide applicators must take **A** exams in order to become initially certified, and some choose to become recertified by exam rather than by attending continuing instructional courses. With the arrival of Asian soybean rust in this country, many commercial applicators are considering adding agricultural diseases (category 1C) to their certification so that they can apply fungicides.

Two training sessions designed to help prepare individuals for the commercial pesticide applicator examinations will be offered in southeast Iowa. One session is in Marion on Wednesday, February 14, in the Linn County Extension office at 3279 7th Avenue. A second session will be offered in Bettendorf on Thursday, March 22, in the Scott County Extension office, 875 Tanglefoot Lane. Training will begin at 9:00 a.m. at both locations.

The training sessions will cover the *Iowa Core Manual* and categories 1A (Agricultural Weed

Management), 1B (Agricultural Insect Control), 1C (Agricultural Crop Disease Management), 3O, T, and G (Ornamental, Turf, and Greenhouse Pest Management), 4 (Seed Treatment), and 6 (Right-of-Way). Training on the *Iowa Core Manual* will be from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Training on the other categories will begin at approximately 10:30 a.m. and conclude in early afternoon.

There is a \$20 fee per person at each training session. These training sessions do **not** qualify as continuing instructional courses. For more information, please contact me at (319) 337-2145 ([fawcett@iastate.edu](mailto:fawcett@iastate.edu)) or Virgil Schmitt at (563) 263-5701 ([vschmitt@iastate.edu](mailto:vschmitt@iastate.edu)).

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