

Agriculture Updates

Good afternoon. This is Heather Benedict, Regional Agronomy Specialist with the University of Missouri Extension. University Extension is the statewide outreach program of the University of Missouri System.

For farmers, winter is the time for planning and preparation for spring planting. Many of the decisions need much consideration. Which variety of seed to use; how to plan the best herbicide regimen; and what pests to watch for in the coming seasons are some of the considerations. Information on these topics and many more are available from the University of Missouri Extension.

This winter the University of Missouri Extension is holding Agriculture Updates in each of the counties in Northwest Missouri. These updates are a way to become familiar with some of the agricultural concerns that may be facing you in 2012. You will also have a chance to receive or renew your private pesticide applicator license.

In order to buy or use restricted pesticides, applicators need to have a license. This law was enacted to protect the environment, as well as the people using these restricted materials. The Extension services have been tasked with ensuring those who use restricted pesticides are familiar with the proper uses and safety procedures. The licenses may be obtained by watching a video and the purchase of a manual. However, the Ag-Updates provide a one on one training that is much more interactive and personally directed than the video. This is a good way to receive the appropriate training without the necessity of watching a video.

If you are interested in obtaining your private pesticide applicator license or in learning more about the agricultural concerns for this year, please attend an Ag-Update near you. You may contact your local extension office to learn the dates and locations of the upcoming meetings. Some of the meetings will be held during the day and others will be in the evening for the convenience of those who need to attend.

More information and the research on the practices I have discussed as well as on many more subjects can be found in your local extension office. So if you would like further information on this or any other topic contact your local University of Missouri Extension office. University of Missouri and Extension programs are open to all. Thank you for your time.

This is Heather Benedict Agronomy Specialist for the University of Missouri Extension wishing you a good week.