

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COVID-19 RESPONSE & GUIDANCE
March 31, 2020

Please note new guidance and updates and changes to previous guidance are highlighted.

Cannabis Application Information

On March 28, 2020 Governor JB Pritzker issued an Executive Order extending the deadline for submitting applications for Adult Use Cannabis Craft Grower, Infuser, and Transporter licenses to the Illinois Department of Agriculture until April 30, 2020, and directing all applications to be submitted via certified mail. Please see below for instructions on how to submit your application. All applicants must submit their application via certified mail.

- The deadline to submit applications for Adult Use Cannabis Craft Grower, Infuser, and Transporter licenses is extended to April 30, 2020. All applications must be submitted via United States Postal Service certified mail and post-marked on or before April 30, 2020.
- Submissions via UPS, FedEx, or other mail delivery services will not be accepted.
- With the exception of the deadline and mail-in requirement, the format of the application submission remain the same as indicated in the application instructions.
- Applicants submitting multiple applications must submit each application in separately mailed submissions.
- Fingerprints previously submitted for these applications do NOT need to be resubmitted.
- All applications must be mailed to the following address:

IL DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
c/o BUREAU OF MEDICINAL PLANTS
P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, IL 62794-9281

For questions please contact AGR.adultuse@illinois.gov

For more information on the Adult-Use Cannabis Program visit
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Plants/Pages/Adult-Use-Cannabis.aspx>

Solid Mosquito Larvicide Training

In an effort to accommodate essential business operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Illinois Department of Agriculture will be extending the expiration date on some Solid Mosquito

Larvicide Training certificates. Solid Mosquito Larvicide Training certificates with an expiration date of December 31, 2019, will be extended without additional training requirements. These certificates will have a new expiration date of December 31, 2020. While mosquitoes are not known to carry COVID-19, COVID-19 has made the standard training requirements for these certificates infeasible. Further questions on this topic can be directed to the Illinois Department of Agriculture at agr.pesticide@illinois.gov or 217-785-2427.

Winter Blend Fuel Waiver

The Department recognizes that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses are experiencing severe reductions in demand for products, including a reduction in the demand for gasoline. As a result, many gasoline retailers are holding an excess amount of winter grade fuel with an ASTM Class [E-5] volatility specification in storage.

Therefore, the request has been granted to suspend the ASTM Class [D-4] requirements and extend the ASTM Class [E-5] requirements for gasoline through April 30, 2020 so that refineries and retailers may have greater flexibility in making supplies available to consumers in the State of Illinois.

Egg Packaging

To address shortages of eggs at retail, the Department has issued the following guidance for sale of loose pack eggs intended for food service sales for retail sales:

Loose pack eggs may be sold at retail as long as all packaging and labeling requirements are met as established in the Illinois Egg and Egg Products Act (410 ILCS 615) and the administrative rules promulgated thereunder (8 IL. Adm. Code 65).

The Illinois Department of Public Health has been notified that this method of sale is acceptable and in compliance with the Illinois Egg and Egg Products Act.

COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations Guidance

On March 20, 2020, Governor J.B. Pritzker issued Executive Order 2020-10, ordering individuals currently living in the State of Illinois to stay at home with the exception of Essential Businesses and Operations. In issuing this Order, Governor Pritzker continued his recognition of the Agricultural industry as a fundamental building block to the State. To that end, Governor Pritzker's Executive Order expressly considers the following to be an Essential Business and Operation:

Food, beverage, and cannabis production and agriculture. Food and beverage manufacturing, production, processing, and cultivation, including farming, livestock, fishing, baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production, and distribution of animals and goods for consumption; licensed medical and adult use cannabis dispensaries and licensed cannabis cultivation centers; and businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, rescues, shelters, kennels, and adoption facilities.

The Department greatly appreciates Governor Pritzker's commitment to Agriculture. The Department wants to ensure the agricultural community that its vital work will continue.

Medicinal Plants

The Department of Agriculture Bureau of Medicinal Plants is still processing agent credentials for regulated entities under the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act and the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act. The Bureau of Medicinal Plants has waived the requirement that agents have the physical card in their possession.

Bureau of Agricultural Products Inspection

The Bureau of Agricultural Products Inspection has suspended routine facility inspections, including those performed under contract for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Only emergency-type inspections such as for an anhydrous ammonia release will be conducted until further notice. Feed and fertilizer companies with questions about licensing or product registration applications, or in need of certificates of free sale to facilitate the export of their products, should call 217-785-8212 or email jeff.squibb@illinois.gov.

Illinois Department of Agriculture Community Garden

The community garden at the Illinois State Fairgrounds will remain open to individuals who purchased plots. The community garden is located on the infield at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Plot owners are encouraged to use social distancing measures and to visit their plots only to tend to them.

Weights and Measures

The Bureau of Weights and Measures will not be testing any devices prior to April 30. Any currently certified scale will remain certified until Department of Agriculture is able to reschedule inspection appointments. In addition, scales that have been repaired or new scales need to be inspected and placed in service by a registered service company prior to being fully certified by the Department of Agriculture. It is recommended to discuss new/repaired scales directly with the Department of Agriculture.

Animal Health and Welfare

The Illinois Department of Agriculture recognizes that animal shelters, animal controls and veterinarians are facing unique challenges during the COVID-19 event. Decisions are being made to protect staff and the public while also providing essential services for animals and the community at large. To that end, many clinics have stopped all elective surgeries at this time, including spay and neuter procedures. As a result, the Illinois Department of Agriculture will allow shelters and animal controls to utilize 225 ILCS 605/3.3(a)(2) for the COVID-19 event. A licensed veterinarian must certify that the animals were unable to be altered prior to adoption due to COVID-19 requiring sterilization surgeries to be delayed. Furthermore, the licensee must ensure that they and the adopter agree in writing that the animals will be altered within 14 days of elective surgeries being resumed at the clinic. The licensee will be responsible for verifying this requirement is met.

The Department has a full page of resources for pet owners, veterinarians, animal shelters, caretakers of pets of humans exposed to COVID-19, and the livestock industry. A link to this information can be found at:

Pesticide Applicator Training (Includes Q&A)

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Pesticide Applicator Training and Testing Clinics jointly administered by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and University of Illinois Extension are cancelled for the remainder of the clinic season. These cancellations include the Peoria, Champaign, Moline, Matteson, Collinsville, Springfield, Alsip, Carterville, Skokie, Des Plaines, St. Charles and Springfield and DeKalb on-site testing locations. The University of Illinois Extension has initiated the process of contacting each individual registered for clinics. **The Illinois Department of Agriculture will extend applicator, operator and dealer licenses that expired December 31, 2019. These licenses will now be valid through December 31, 2020. Training and testing opportunities will be available for individuals not currently licensed as applicators.**

Q: Am I an Applicator or and Operator?

An **applicator** is the person(s) in an organization who has the responsibility for all pesticide purchasing, storage, handling, and use. Applicators must pass the General Standards exam and one or more category exams. An applicator may use pesticides or supervise the use of pesticides by licensed operators.

An **operator** is a person who uses pesticides at the job site. The operator is tied directly to the supervising applicator's license. The operator can apply pesticides only under the direct supervision of the applicator and can apply pesticides only to areas (categories) covered by the applicator's license.

Q: What if my applicator license expired on December 31, 2019, but I have not retested for general standards and at least one category exam to date?

Licenses in this situation will have their license extended through December 31, 2020. This extension will be applied automatically and there is no application or fee for this license extension. If verification is needed, please contact the IDOA at (217) 785-2427.

Q: Will training and testing opportunities be available for individuals not currently licensed as applicators?

We are currently working on a plan for providing training and/or testing opportunities for those who are not currently licensed applicators but will be newly licensed applicators this year.

NOTE: No training or testing opportunities have been scheduled at this time. We will continue to provide updates on the IDOA website.

Q: What if I am unlicensed and would like to become an operator for 2020?

Due to the special circumstance, non-certified applicators (operators) will not have a testing requirement for the remainder of 2020. Operators must continue to work under the direction of a certified applicator and receive general pesticide training. The supervising applicator must be certified in each category applicable to the pesticide use.

Q: What if I had a commercial or commercial not for hire applicator license several years ago but it was not current as of December 31, 2019?

Individuals in this situation would need to pass the general standards exam and at least one category exam to become a licensed applicator. We are currently working on a plan for providing training and/or testing opportunities. The most up to date details will be available on the IDOA website.

Q: What if I had a private applicator license several years ago, but it was not current as of December 31, 2019?

Individuals in this situation would need to pass the private applicator exam to become a licensed applicator in order to purchase or apply restricted use pesticides (RUPs). A private applicator license is not required for application of general use pesticides which are not classified as restricted use. We are currently working on a plan for providing training and/or testing opportunities. The most up to date details will be available on the IDOA website.

Q: What if I had a commercial applicator license several years ago, but it was not current as of December 31, 2019?

Individuals in this situation would need to pass the commercial applicator exam to become a licensed applicator in order to purchase or apply restricted use pesticides (RUPs). A commercial applicator license is not required for application of general use pesticides which are not classified as restricted use. We are currently working on a plan for providing training and/or testing opportunities. The most up to date details will be available on the IDOA website.

Q: Will I receive a revised license card?

No. If verification of licensure is needed, please contact the IDOA at (217) 785-2427.

Q: Can I purchase restricted use pesticides if my license is expired?

Yes, if the applicator license expired on December 31, 2019. All such licenses will have their license expiration dates extended through December 31, 2020 and will be valid for the purchase of restricted use pesticides. This extension will be applied automatically and there is no application or fee for this license extension. The Department will work to notify dealers of this license extension. If verification of licensure is needed, please contact the IDOA at (217) 785-2427.

Q: My dealer license expired December 31, 2019. Can I sell pesticides (including restricted use pesticides) for this upcoming season?

Yes. Effective immediately, dealer and applicator/dealer licenses will be extended through December 31, 2020. This extension will be applied automatically and there is no application or fee for this license extension. Pesticides can be sold so long as a valid license is used showing a December 31, 2019 expiration date. If verification of licensure is needed, please contact the IDOA at (217) 785-2427.

Q: If I have a valid pesticide applicator license in another state, am I currently able to apply for a reciprocal license in Illinois?

The State of Illinois is currently working with other states to formalize reciprocity. We encourage all out of state applicators to email agr.pesticide@illinois.gov and a response will be provided by the Department.

Q: Do I still need to be a “certified applicator” to apply one of the 4 dicamba products labeled for application to dicamba tolerant soybeans and cotton in 2020?

Yes. The labels for Engenia, Xtendimax, Fexapan and Tavium all require the application to be performed by a “certified applicator”. In order to become a certified applicator, individuals must pass the general standards exam and the field crop category. Certified applicators, whose license expired on December 31, 2019 and have not had the opportunity to successfully recertify will have their license extended through December 31, 2020. We are currently working on a plan for providing training and/or testing opportunities for those individuals who are not certified applicators. In addition, anyone applying one of the four aforementioned dicamba containing products must have completed the required annual dicamba specific training as per label requirements.

BASF on-line training is here: <https://www.engeniastewardship.com/#/training>

Bayer on-line training is here: <https://training.roundupreadyxtend.com/>

Corteva on-line training is here: <http://cloud01.bader-rutter.com/DAAGFEXA7051/Illinois/#/>

Q: Do I need to be a “certified applicator” to apply paraquat in 2020?

Yes. If applying paraquat under the new label which specifically requires the application be made by a “certified applicator.” In order to become a certified applicator, individuals must pass the general standards exam and at least one applicable category exam (ie. Field Crop). Certified applicators whose license expired on December 31, 2019 and have not had the opportunity to successfully recertify will have their license extended through December 31, 2020. We are currently working on a plan for providing training and/or testing opportunities for those individuals who are not certified applicators. In addition, anyone applying paraquat under the new label must have completed the required paraquat specific training as per label requirements. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-training-certified-applicator>

State Fairgrounds

All PUBLIC Events that were to be held on the Illinois State Fairgrounds and Du Quoin State Fairgrounds have been CANCELLED through April 30, 2020.

Warehouses

Grain Warehouse and Dealer licensees with questions should call 217-785-8308 or email joe.small@illinois.gov. License renewals are due by the current expiration date. Should a licensee require an extension for a license renewal, the licensee should proceed with the normal extension process, and the license extension form with directions is listed on our website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Consumers/GrainWarehouses/Pages/Forms-for-Warehouses.aspx>