

Government Relations Update

For year 2013, commercial fertilizer applicators will be required to pass an exam to prove knowledge and competency on fertilizer applications. This exam will be set up along the same lines as the commercial pesticide applicators license, with a pass fail of 70% being proposed now. It will be given in numerous locations around the state starting in October 2013.

Applicators will have a moderate window to complete this exam (approximately 3 to 6 months.) The applicators license will cost \$100, and is renewable every 3 years. The education necessary to renew this license will be tailored to fit in with pesticide recertification, in order to manage costs for continuing education. The license

renews along the same time period as the pesticide applicators license (July 1st through June 30th).

There will also be a fee associated with the commercial fertilizer business license. The company shall pay a \$150 license fee, which is good for 3 years. The company will then renew the license every 3 years for \$150. The company will be responsible for reporting the following:

- How many acres treated with fertilizer
- Who is the certified professional applicator

Vehicles shall have the business license number on them if they are used in transporting and applying fertilizers (not utility carts, this applies more to

lawn / landscape / fertilizer companies).

We are currently in discussion on the Maryland Nutrient Management Law, working with Bevin Buchheister from the Chesapeake Bay Commission, to address the "waters of the state", which is described in the MDE laws to include the 100 year flood and ground water. The challenge is that the MDA Nutrient Management Law has certain definitions set by the MDE, and needs to be handled through the proper channels. The committee who drafted the law is in support of proper fertilizer applications, and the do not want to hinder our ability to apply fertilizers as necessary. We should be able to clear this up during this season's legislative process.

I have also been in touch with Chava McKeel from the GCSAA to begin getting information about how the "ObamaCare" health plan shall affect our industry. She is working on gathering information so we can be proactive in working with our employers to fully understand how our businesses will be affected.

Jay Nalls
Government Relations
Director

Monday: The bank's Scramble. Thursday: Member/Guest Tournament. Guess you are fertilizing Wednesday. Sure hope your distributor has it all in stock.

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