

## MANURE APPLICATOR

**Licensing Authority** Elonda Bacon  
Licensing Bureau  
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**Legal Authority** 152D Iowa Administrative Code, Chapters 30-31

**Job Description** Commercial manure applicators charge a fee and are in the business of applying manure on the land of another person. Commercial applicators: evaluate field conditions and the nutrient content of manure from different storage systems; evaluate crop nutrient needs to determine if proposed application rates are appropriate; read and interpret manure management plans; and, calibrate and operate equipment to prevent over-application of manure that might create surface or groundwater contamination.

**Education & Experience Required** Formal education or supervised practice is not required to become a manure applicator. However, an applicant must take three hours of training annually or pass an examination administered by the Department of Natural Resources. Iowa State University Extension offers a satellite training in early January.

**Continuing Education** An individual may either attend three hours of training approved by the Department of Natural Resource (DNR) or pass an examination for initial certification. The same two options are available to renew a certificate, provided the training is received in the 12 months after initial certification.

**Examination** Examinations provide a means to become certified for individuals who miss the scheduled training sessions. Exams are given at the DNR's six field offices, but must be scheduled in advance. Special needs can be accommodated if requested at least 30 days in advance. "PM-1778 Commercial Manure Certification Study Guide" may be helpful in studying for the test. The cost of the study guide is listed below under "Fees."

**Fees** Application: \$50 – for a one-year certificate  
Renewal: \$50 – call certifying authority; \$200 after Jan. 1, 2003.  
Exam: No charge  
Other: \$20 – PM-1778 Commercial Manure Applicators Study Guide (optional)

**SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage** 45-9099 – All Other Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers (\$10.29)

**Number of Licenses Issued** Total number of certificates active as of December 31, 2001: 1,050 (approximately)