

MANURE APPLICATOR, COMMERCIAL

Licensing Authority Jeff Prier
Licensing Bureau
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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Legal Authority Code of Iowa 455B; Iowa Administrative Code 65

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 commercial 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 Service offers satellite training in early January.

Those commercial applicators that handle septic tank or other private waste need an additional license.

Continuing Education Applicants must take three hours of training annually or pass an examination administered by the Department of Natural Resources. Applicants can contact their local Extension office for information on training courses or check the website at: <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/certificationFr.html>

Examination An individual must attend three hours of training approved by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or pass an examination for initial certification and to renew a certificate. 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: \$200 – for a one-year certificate
Renewal: \$200 – call certifying authority for details
Exam: No charge
Other: \$20 – PM-1778 Commercial Manure Applicators Study Guide (optional)

SOC Code, Title, & Avg. 45-9099 – All Other Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers (\$9.17)

Hourly Wage

Number of	Total number of certificates active as of December 31,
Licenses	2002: 915 (approximately)
Issued	2001: 1,050 (approximately)