



Volume 18, Issue 2

February 2025

Agricultural Newsletter of the LSU AgCenter's Iberia Cooperative Extension Service

This issue contains information regarding:

- Introduction
- Pesticide Recertification, & Burn Manager Recertification Meeting
- Mid-South Agriculture Labor Seminar
- Closing

Introduction

2025 is off to a fast start. During the month of January, we experienced record snow and record low temperatures. With warmer than normal temperatures to start the month of February, many sugarcane fields have been clipped and sprayed. Sugarcane Production Meetings for the Teche/Acadiana area have been conducted, and it is now time to focus on pesticide and burn management recertification meetings. Please see the attached/enclosed information on this “special edition” of Headland Highlights, which contains details for recertification, as well as the Mid-South Agriculture Labor Seminar and other upcoming events and activities.

Pesticide Recertification and Burn Management Recertification Meeting

The Iberia/St. Mary Pesticide Recertification and Burn Manager Recertification Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, February 28th, 2025. Please make plans to attend this meeting if your certification expires in 2025, as we will conduct Private Pesticide Applicator and Pesticide/Chemical Handler and Applicator Recertification Training at this meeting. Details are as follows:

When: Friday, February 28, 2025

Where: Ward 8 Recreation Building, (803 Hubertville Road), Jeanerette, Louisiana

A) Agenda

Registration begins at 8:00 AM and the meeting will conclude by noon; therefore, no meal will be served. A detailed agenda will be emailed the week of the meeting and copies will be available at the meeting.

B) Pesticide Safety & Recertification

Producers who need their private applicator card renewed will be assessed a **\$25.00** fee and must bring a **check or money order made payable to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry. NO CASH** will be accepted by LDAF. LDAF representatives will be on hand to collect fees and other necessary information. Please check your “Pesticide Card” to see if your card is expiring in March. If you are not sure if your private applicator card expires this year, please call your local county agent’s office (Iberia: 337-369-4440; Vermilion: 337-898-4335; St. Mary: 337-828-4100 Ext. 300; Lafayette: 337-291-7090; St. Martin 337-332-2181; Acadia 337-788-8821; St. Landry 337-948-0561).

Once again, this year, producers will be charged a **\$15.00** renewal fee from the LSU AgCenter. This fee will have to be paid separately from your LDAF fee. **Checks should be made payable to LSU AgCenter. NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

****To summarize fees: a) One check payable to LDAF for \$25.00 and b) one check payable to the LSU AgCenter for \$15.00. Both must be paid on February 28th in Jeanerette.**

The program will also include qualifying your workers/employees for the Federal Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Program as a qualified PESTICIDE HANDLER. This includes those who come in direct contact with any of the chemicals that you have on your operations (handling, storing, loading, applying, cleaning), including fertilizer and pesticides. There is no fee for the pesticide handler card.

For those of you sending your employees to be recertified as a pesticide **worker or handler**, please fill out the **WPS Training Verification Form** attached. **Please print or type all of your “Employees Names” that you would like to have re-certified. It must be legible. All employees registered must attend.**

All employees wishing to be recertified as a **pesticide handler** must be in attendance for the pesticide safety training video and protective clothing presentation and must be present to sign the WPS Training Verification Form. You are strongly encouraged to have all those on your farm who do this type of work on your operation attend this portion of the meeting. There is no charge for pesticide handler certification.

The pesticide portion of this meeting is for recertification only. To become certified, you must take and pass an exam. If you have not taken the exam for the private pesticide applicator card, please contact your local county agent’s office for further details. As of January 1, 2017, these exams can only be taken at an LDAF office.

To summarize the schedule; the first section will be for pesticide handler certification; the middle section will include further pesticide information for pesticide applicators’ recertification and the final section will focus on **burn manager recertification**. Please plan accordingly.

Please note: Those needing to get their private applicator card recertification must attend the first two sections of the meeting and are encouraged to remain for the entire meeting. If your card expires this year and you cannot attend this meeting, please contact the Iberia Extension Office to make arrangements in another parish or review the dates and locations listed later in this letter/email.

If you are receiving this information and it contains a yellow **-colored paper**, this indicates your private pesticide applicator card expires in 2025; therefore, you must attend a recertification meeting this year to be recertified.

If you are sending workers from your farm to be trained as a handler; please complete the enclosed WPS Training Form and bring it to registration on February 28, 2025 or email to: almire@agcenter.lsu.edu. by NOON on February 26, 2025.

Please note if you are unable to attend the meeting on February 28 in Jeanerette, there are several other upcoming pesticide recertification meetings in the area that you can also attend. These include:

*February 27 – Acadia Parish – Acadia LSU AgCenter Extension Office in Crowley – 9:00 AM (call 788-8821)

*March 3 – Vermilion Parish – Vermilion LSU AgCenter Extension Office in Abbeville – 6:00 PM (call 898-4335)

*March 11 - Acadia Parish – Acadia LSU AgCenter Extension Office in Crowley – 9:00 AM (call 788-8821)

*March 12 – Vermilion Parish – K.C. Hall in Gueydan – 6:00 PM (call 898-4335)

*March 18 – Vermilion Parish – Vermilion LSU AgCenter Extension Office in Abbeville – 10:00 AM (call 898-4335)

*February 25 and March 13 – VIRTUAL EVENTS via Microsoft Teams – (registration online via LSU AgCenter Online Store) : [LSU AgCenter Store - Pesticide Applicator Pre-Certification Online Training](#)

*March 20 – Lafayette Parish—Lafayette LSU AgCenter Extension Office in Lafayette – 6:00 PM (call 291-7090)

*March 26 – St. Martin Parish – St. Martin LSU AgCenter Extension Office in Breaux Bridge – 9:00 AM (call 332-2181)

C) Burn Manager Recertification

The burn manager recertification portion of the meeting will allow producers the opportunity to renew their certified burn manager cards. Please note that there is no fee for this recertification.

Mid-South Agriculture Labor Seminar

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation recently posted information about the Mid-South Agriculture Labor Seminar scheduled for Thursday, February 27th, 2025, in Port Allen. Enclosed is a brochure with more details. If you do not have email and would like further information, please call the Iberia Extension Office at 337-369-4440.

Closing

The warm weather we are currently experiencing makes it feel like spring has arrived, but we may face some more “winter like conditions” before we truly get to spring. Once we get to March “and real spring like conditions,” it will be time for all of you to get started with your 2025 spring field work. Keeping this in mind, you are highly encouraged to attend the meetings mentioned in this newsletter.

If you have an email address and you are not receiving emails from me or if this is the first correspondence you receive from me, please email your email address to me so that you can get this information via the internet. My email address is bhebert@agcenter.lsu.edu. If you do not have access to email and would like any reference material in this newsletter mailed to you, please contact me at the Iberia Extension office of the LSU AgCenter (337) 369-4440 so that this information can be sent to you.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming events planned for our area, and if you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at the Iberia Extension office of the LSU AgCenter.

Sincerely,

Blair J. Hebert

Blair J. Hebert
County Agent/Parish Chairman
Iberia Parish