

2026 Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training Workshop

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 – 8:00am-5:00pm

Sedgwick County Extension Education Center, 4-H Hall (7001 W. 21st Street North, Wichita, KS 67205)

Hosted By K-State Extension, Sedgwick County – Abbey Draut, Horticulture Agent

AGENDA

8:00-8:55am
(1 hour, KDA Core
Hour)

KDA Core Hour

Presented by: Kent Spor, Environmental Compliance & Regulatory Specialist, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Presentation Description: This presentation will update the audience on laws and regulations for commercial pesticide applicators in Kansas.

8:55-9:50am
(1 hour, 3A & 3B)

Landscape & Turf Disease Update

Presented by: Dr. Megan Kennelly, Professor & Department Head, Plant Pathology, KSU - Manhattan

Presentation Description: Each year Kansas presents its own plant health problems. Environmental conditions are ever changing, providing various diseases and plant problems that are favored by each year's mix of conditions. This talk will cover the hot topic diseases from 2026 of turfgrass, trees, and shrubs statewide.

9:50-10:10am

BREAK

10:10-11:05am
(1 hour, 3B)

Turfgrass Weed Control: Herbicides and Emerging Management Approaches

Presented by: Dr. AJ Lindsey, Assistant Professor, Horticulture and Natural Resources, KSU - Manhattan

Presentation Description: Weed control remains a critical component of successful turfgrass management. This presentation will review herbicides and application strategies for controlling grassy weeds, broadleaf weeds, and sedges in turfgrass systems. Recent research findings, emerging weed challenges, and new herbicide technologies will also be highlighted. Attendees will gain practical guidance on herbicide selection, application timing, and integrating chemical and cultural practices for effective season-long weed control in lawns, sports fields, golf courses, and other managed turf areas.

11:05am-12:00pm
(1 hour, 3A & 3B)

A Recipe for Species Protection

Presented by: Frannie Miller, Pesticide Safety and IPM Coordinator, K-State Extension, KSU - Manhattan

Presentation Description: This presentation will explore the Endangered Species Act, Bulletins Live Two (BLT), and the regulatory framework that pesticide applicators must navigate to remain compliant. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of current requirements and their implications for pesticide applications.

12:00-1:00pm

LUNCH

**1:00-1:55pm
(1 hour, 3A & 3B)**

Sprayer Calibration and Tank Mixing

Presented by: Paul Kear, Pump Sales Specialist, Fairbank Equipment

Presentation Description: This presentation will cover pesticide application equipment and calibration procedures for agricultural, industrial, and turf applications. Topics include pumps, tanks, nozzles, sprayer components, and proper calibration techniques for ATV boom sprayers, backpack sprayers, and hand-held sprayers.

**1:55-2:50pm
(1 hour, 3A)**

Sawflies: Insect Pests of Horticultural Plants

Presented by: Dr. Raymond Cloyd, Professor and Extension Specialist in Horticultural Entomology and Plant Protection, KSU - Manhattan

Presentation Description: This presentation will explore the different types of sawflies, their biology and ecology, and the damage they can cause in the landscape. Attendees will also gain practical insights into effective management strategies for reducing pest impacts and maintaining plant health.

2:50-3:10pm

BREAK

**3:10-4:05pm
(1 hour, 3A)**

Insect and Disease Resistant Selections for Landscape Trees in Kansas

Presented by: Kody Kramer, Southeast District Community Forester, Kansas Forest Service

Presentation Description: Some trees are better selections than others. This talk will provide details about some trees that naturally resist many insect pests and diseases as well. Knowing a little about plant taxonomy and phylogenesis can help landscapers make better selections that will hopefully lessen the need for chemical inputs. A few common diseases and insect problems of trees in Kansas will also be covered, with an emphasis on one insect that is gradually closing in on the Wichita area.

**4:05-5:00pm
(1 hour, 3A & 3B)**

Controlling Vertebrate Pests in the Lawn and Landscape

Presented by: Dr. Drew Ricketts, Extension Wildlife Specialist, KSU - Manhattan

Presentation Description: Moles, pocket gophers, voles, armadillos, and prairie dogs can cause significant damage to turfgrass, landscapes, and other managed areas. This presentation will explore effective strategies for preventing and managing damage caused by these vertebrate pests, including both lethal and non-lethal control methods.

MONITORING ATTENDANCE:

- **In Person** – Attendees will check-in and receive a name tag and attendance form. If someone must step out of a presentation, they will have to sign out and back in with a monitor, noting time. If they miss more than 10 minutes of a presentation, they will not receive credit for that hour. At the end of each presentation, attendees will have their attendance form initialed by an authorized monitor. We will have approximately 10 monitors for this. Staff will review and sign all participant attendance forms at the end of the day before the participants leave.