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INTRODUCTION

This manual is intended as a study guide for preparing to take the Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Exam administered by your state, tribe, territory, or federal department/agency. Passing the core exam is essential to becoming a certified applicator. Check with the pesticide regulatory agency to determine whether this manual prepares you for commercial or private applicator certification or recertification or registered technician status. This manual satisfies the entry-level applicator training requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). More specific pest management information, pesticide terminology, and application techniques are covered in category-specific manuals and in greater detail during recertification (continuing education).

The questions found on state, tribe, territory, or federal department/agency core exams are based on information presented in this manual. The table of contents helps you identify important topics and understand how they relate to one another through the organiza-

tion of headings and subheadings. Each chapter begins with a set of learning objectives that help you focus on what you should learn from the chapter. After studying a chapter, answer the review questions located at the end and go back and make sure you can address the learning objectives. The questions on the certification exam pertain directly to these learning objectives. The review questions are not on the certification exam, but a similar concept might be addressed. The answers to the review questions are found in *Appendix A*.

Other appendices, including a glossary, provide supplemental information that help you understand the topics covered in the chapters. Terms in bold type throughout the manual are defined either within the text or in the glossary.

This certification manual benefits both you and the general public. By learning how to handle pesticides correctly, you will be able to protect yourself, others, and the environment from pesticide misuse. For further information, visit: www.epa.gov and select “Pesticides.”