LINCOLN—Private pesticide applicators holding licenses expiring in 2012, as well as anyone seeking first-time private applicator certification, should contact their local University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension office for information on pesticide education training sessions that begin in January.

Two sessions are planned for Dawson County: 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 29, at the Dawson County Extension Office in Lexington; 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 13 at the Monsanto Water Utilization Learning Center south of Gothenburg.

Licensed private pesticide applicators can buy and use restricted-use pesticides in their own farming operations after completing this training. There are about 3,500 private applicators statewide eligible for recertification in 2012.

Private applicators needing recertification in 2012 should have received a letter notifying them of that fact from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture in mid-December, said UNL pesticide training educator Clyde Ogg.

The letter includes a bar code, which eliminates the need to complete the standard NDA application form for those wanting to recertify, he said. Applicators having the bar-coded letter with them at training sessions will not have to fill out the application form.

“All who are eligible for recertification will be notified by their local extension office of recertification training sessions in their area,” Ogg said.

Training topics include results from the Farm Family Exposure Study, which answers the questions of how much pesticide exposure farmers and their families experience and what practical measures can be taken to lessen pesticide exposure.

Extension cropping systems specialist Bob Klein compares effectiveness of drift reduction spray nozzles and gives guidance on conducting high quality pesticide applications.

Extension entomologist Bob Wright will give updates on insects affecting soybeans, extension plant pathologist Loren Geisler will have an update on soybean cyst nematode, and Stephen Knezevic, extension integrated weed management specialist will provide information about managing eastern red cedar.

Other training topics include soybean aphid identification and management, as well as drift reduction nozzles, equipment calibration, worker protection standard, protective pesticide clothing and equipment, updates on pesticide laws and regulations, safe greenhouse practices, and special emphasis on pesticide health impacts, Ogg said.

UNL Extension provides the educational training, while NDA is responsible for licensing. Cost of NU training is $30 per person.

For a list of other training sessions, sites and dates, contact your nearest extension office or go online to http://pested.unl.edu/privateschedule, where applicators will find pesticide education sites for private applicators listed by county.

“After completing private applicator training, certification applications will be sent to NDA, who will then send a bill to the applicator for the $25 state license fee,” Ogg said.