

POLK COUNTY FACTSHEET



Correspondence CEUs: Frequently Asked Questions Publication #3 August 2016

The purpose of this factsheet is to describe pesticide license renewal options using non-traditional sources of Continuing Education Units (CEUs), such as CEUs offered by video at the UF/IFAS Extension Polk County office. Find detailed licensing information, study guides, links to key websites, and CEU opportunities at www.polksmallfarms.com.

How do I renew my license?

Renew by retesting or earning Continuing Education Units (CEUs). The required CEUs and renewal interval vary among licenses. See renewal requirements for common pesticide licenses in Table 1. CEUs are available through live classes, online sources and by videos, offered the first working Monday of the month at the UF/IFAS Extension Polk County office in Bartow.

Which CEUs are available via video?

The Polk County Extension office applies for CEU approval through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), which determines the number of approved CEUs and categories. Approved CEUs can vary year to year. Currently offered videos are approved for several Aquatic CEUs and a limited number of CEUs in other categories. For best results call to verify which CEUs are available.

License	Total CEUs	Core	Category	Renew every
Aquatic	20	4	16	4 years
Natural Areas	20	4	16	4 years
Ornamental and Turf	16	4	12	4 years
Private	8	4	4	4 years
Right of Way	12	4	8	4 years
Limited Lawn and Ornamental	4	2	2	4 years
Limited Commercial Maintenance	4	2	2	1 year

Do I need to register in advance?

There is currently no need to register in advance for Aquatic CEU videos. The videos are offered the first working Monday of the month, at the same time as exams are administered, beginning at 9 a.m. Videos are offered on a first come, first served basis, with preference given to those needing Aquatic CEUs. Although every effort will be made to best accommodate the needs presented, in the worst case scenario, if non-aquatic CEUs are needed, you may have to wait up to two hours for an available room. This flexible scheduling method has been successful in avoiding missed appointments and commonly skipped registration, and the worst case scenario has not occurred thus far.

Do I need to bring anything?

Earning CEUs by video is considered a correspondence class, and you will need to have your license number in order to generate the appropriate CEU sheet. Your attendance will be entered into the FDACS record system for you, and the CEU sheet generated will be based on the stored information you have with FDACS.

Is there a fee?

There is currently no fee for this service.

Other correspondence CEUs available?

Several sources of online CEUs are available including the University of Florida's Pesticide Information Office's online modules available at <http://onlinepesticideceus.com>. This site offers a full range of CEUs for renewal.

Other sources include trade magazines such as [Florida Grower Magazine](#).

Any tips for a smooth renewal?

Be sure to verify which CEUs the correspondence class is approved for before completing it. Magazine articles are most likely approved for Core CEUs, and FDACS has recently split Core CEU approval into two categories: Chapter 487 for agricultural related licenses and 482 for structural licenses. Not all program topics are approved for both groups.

The cost of correspondence CEUs varies by the source. Several are free and others average about \$20 per CEU. If all CEUs required are earned under the \$20 per CEU scenario, the cost may likely exceed that of attending live programs, which often include a meal.

Correspondence CEUs are best used as a stop-gap or, in a worst case scenario need to renew on short notice. Many offer the ability to complete CEU

requirements after business hours or on short notice, which may be useful when work is stopped due to weather etc.

They do not offer interaction with the instructor, or peers, or easy ways to ask questions and are less likely to include demonstrations and time sensitive information such as new pest outbreaks.

Can I check my CEUs online?

Find any earned CEUs that have been uploaded by using the database searches at:

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Environmental-Services/Business-Services/Pesticide/Pesticide-Applicator-Certification/Pesticide-Licensee-Dealer-Database-Searches>.

Note that CEUs will only appear here if you or a CEU Provider uploaded them for you. This is not a required activity and FDACS still requires CEU sheets be submitted for renewal.

This database can also be used to search by category for available live and correspondence CEU classes.

Where can I find more information?

See a full list of online CEU opportunities, upcoming classes and more detailed renewal information at www.polksmallfarms.com.

Or, Call your County Extension Agent:

Mary Beth Henry, Integrated Pest Management Extension Agent II, mbhenry@ufl.edu, 863-519-1049.