

Module 14 — Exam Blueprint, Exam Day Strategy & Free Official Resources

CORE exam · 9 practice questions · What is actually on the test, how the label question block works, a timing and elimination strategy, and every free government and university resource worth using.

Key numbers & facts to memorise

Passing score	70%
Length	Roughly 25–150 questions depending on the category
Label block	A pesticide label is supplied with most exams
Results	About 2–4 weeks; minimum 5 business days before retesting
Window	One year from an accepted application to pass your exams

The blueprint: what you will actually be tested on

Ohio pesticide applicator exams are **multiple choice** and **closed book**, with the number of questions varying by category — published OSU Extension guidance describes exams ranging from roughly **25 to 150 questions**. The **passing score is 70%**, and — the detail most candidates are unprepared for — **most exams include a block of questions about a pesticide label that is provided with the exam**. You are handed a real label and asked to extract rate, restricted-entry interval, pre-harvest interval, PPE, signal word, EPA registration number, site list and precautionary language from it under time pressure.

The **CORE** exam's published content areas are: **laws and regulations; pesticide label reading; pesticide handling and storage; pesticide calculations; human toxicity and health effects; applicator safety; and environmental protection**. Those seven areas map directly onto Modules 1 through 7 and 11 of this course. Weight your study accordingly: label reading and calculations are the two areas where preparation converts most reliably into points, because both are procedural skills rather than recall.

Category exams add pest identification and management for the specific sites and crops in that category. For **Category 1, Aerial Pest Control** — the credential a drone spray operation needs — expect agricultural pest and crop questions plus aerial-specific content on application equipment, droplet size and classification, swath and overlap, drift management, buffer zones and weather constraints. Modules 8 and 9 target that material. If your business will also serve horticultural crops or turf grown for sale, you may need additional category exams, each a separate paper.

Exam-day logistics and a strategy that actually raises scores

Apply to ODA first: your accepted application starts a **one-year window** to pass your exams, and it gives you the Applicator ID number you will need at the test site. Register in advance through ODA's exam registration or by calling the Pesticide & Fertilizer Section at **614-728-6987** — sites have limited seating and walk-ins can be turned away. Bring photo identification, your Applicator ID and a calculator you are already comfortable with; expect results to post in roughly **2–4 weeks**, and note that if you must retest, published guidance calls for waiting at least **five business days**.

On the paper itself, work in two passes. First pass: answer everything you know immediately and mark anything requiring arithmetic or label lookup. Second pass: do the calculation questions with units written out, then the label block with the label in front of you. This ordering protects your easy points from the clock and puts your freshest attention on the questions that reward care. Read every question completely — "which is NOT required" and "all of the following except" reverse the answer, and rushing past a negation is the most common avoidable error.

Use disciplined elimination. Options containing absolutes ("always," "never," "any amount is safe") are usually wrong in pesticide law, where the correct answer is almost always "follow the label" or "the more restrictive requirement." Where two options are numerically adjacent, the question is testing a specific published figure — those are the facts worth memorising cold: 43,560 sq ft per acre, 128 fl oz per gallon, 70% to pass, three-year record retention, ten days to the central location, 15–20 minutes of eye flushing, six months for an endangered-species bulletin. Guess rather than leave blanks; there is no penalty for a wrong answer that a blank avoids.

Free official resources — federal, state and university

The most useful free Ohio-specific document is **OSU Extension fact sheet ANR-0140, "Commercial Pesticide Applicator Licensing in Ohio"** at ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-0140, which sets out categories, exam structure, the 70% passing score, fees and recertification in plain language at no cost. **OSU Extension's Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP)** at pested.osu.edu is the hub for Ohio training, and its **online training area** (pested.osu.edu/OnlineTraining) hosts free self-paced modules; pested.osu.edu/commercialrecert lists recertification programming. PSEP can be reached at **614-292-4070** or pested@osu.edu.

On the state regulatory side, **agri.ohio.gov** hosts the Pesticide & Fertilizer Regulation Section: licence applications and current fees, the exam schedule and registration, an **exam results lookup**, a **recertification credit search** so you can verify your hours were actually recorded, and a **pesticide product search** for checking Ohio registration status. The section's phone number, **614-728-6987**, is the fastest way to resolve a question about your own file, and it is the number to call about incidents and complaints.

Federally, **EPA's pesticide pages** (epa.gov/pesticides) provide the label and registration framework at no cost, **Bulletins Live! Two** (epa.gov/endangered-species/bulletins) delivers the county- and month-specific endangered-species bulletins that some labels make enforceable, and the **Worker Protection Standard** pages explain REI, notification and AEZ duties. **The National Pesticide Information Center** (npic.orst.edu, **1-800-858-7378**) answers product and toxicity questions free of charge. For labels themselves, manufacturer sites and free label databases let you practise the exam's label block on real documents.

Two honest caveats. First, Ohio's **official CORE manual and category study guides are sold, not free** — they are available through OSU Extension publications (extensionpubs.osu.edu), and if you can afford one item, buy the study guide for the category you are testing in, because ODA exams track those materials. Second, the free federal and extension materials above are excellent for the concepts and the law but do not reproduce the exam's question set; use them alongside the practice exam on this page rather than instead of a study guide. Everything time-sensitive — fees, schedules, recertification hours, category structure — should be confirmed with ODA before you rely on it.

Practice questions

Answer these closed-book, then check against the answer key that follows. Ohio requires 70% to pass.

1. Ohio pesticide applicator exams require a passing score of:

- A) 60%
- B) 70%
- C) 75%
- D) 80%

2. Published guidance describes Ohio exams as containing approximately:

- A) Exactly 50 questions
- B) 25 to 150 questions depending on the category
- C) Always 100 questions
- D) 10 questions

3. Most Ohio pesticide exams include a block of questions about:

- A) Aircraft weight and balance
- B) A pesticide label provided with the exam
- C) Ohio tax code
- D) Soil survey maps

4. Which is NOT one of the published CORE content areas?

- A) Pesticide calculations
- B) Environmental protection
- C) Aircraft maintenance and airworthiness
- D) Human toxicity and health effects

5. After an accepted ODA application, how long do you have to pass your exams?

- A) 30 days
- B) 6 months
- C) One year
- D) No limit

6. Published guidance says that after failing an exam you should wait at least:

- A) 24 hours
- B) Five business days
- C) Three months
- D) One year

7. Ohio's official CORE manual and category study guides are:

- A) Free from ODA
- B) Sold through OSU Extension publications
- C) Only available at the exam
- D) Not published

8. To verify that your recertification credit hours were recorded, you should:

- A) Assume the sign-in sheet was processed
- B) Use ODA's recertification credit search
- C) Ask the instructor next year
- D) Wait for a letter

9. The National Pesticide Information Center provides:

- A) Paid consulting only
- B) Free answers to pesticide product and toxicity questions
- C) Applicator licences
- D) Aircraft registration

Answer key & explanations

- 1. B)** 70% — 70% is the passing score per OSU Extension ANR-0140.
- 2. B)** 25 to 150 questions depending on the category — Question count varies by category, roughly 25–150 questions.
- 3. B)** A pesticide label provided with the exam — A label is supplied with the exam and you must read rate, REI, PHI, PPE and precautionary information from it.
- 4. C)** Aircraft maintenance and airworthiness — CORE covers laws, labels, handling and storage, calculations, human toxicity, applicator safety and environmental protection. Aircraft airworthiness is an FAA matter.
- 5. C)** One year — The accepted application starts a one-year window to pass CORE and your category exams.
- 6. B)** Five business days — A minimum five-business-day wait before retesting, with results posting roughly 2–4 weeks after the exam.
- 7. B)** Sold through OSU Extension publications — The official study guides are paid publications via extensionpubs.osu.edu, though many supporting resources (ANR-0140, PSEP online training) are free.
- 8. B)** Use ODA's recertification credit search — ODA provides a recertification credit lookup; verifying beats assuming, since lapsed credit can force retaking exams.
- 9. B)** Free answers to pesticide product and toxicity questions — NPIC (npic.orst.edu, 1-800-858-7378) is a free federally supported information service.