

## The Importance of Pesticide Applicator Training and Certification for Farmers

Almost every farm will have to use some form of pesticide at some point. Whether it's an organic farm selling produce at farm markets or a large commercial carrot operation, pest outbreaks will happen from time to time and farm managers may have to resort to the use of an organic or conventional pesticide to prevent their crop from being destroyed. These products are sold in concentrated amounts and have varying degrees of environmental and health risks related to them. Pesticide application training has clear financial benefits for every farm. Pesticides are expensive and ensuring they are applied at the lowest effective rate, in the right way, at the right time for effective control of a particular pest is critical in keeping costs under control and maintaining your crop. From a larger social perspective, the government wants to have some assurance that the people who are applying these products, understand what they are doing and are applying the products in ways that minimize risks to the environment, themselves and the community at large. It is for these reasons and many more that pesticide applicator training and applicator certification is critical for every farm.