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## **IDOA OFFERING ONLINE PESTICIDE TESTING**

*New on-line testing option encouraged*

**SPRINGFIELD, IL** – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) in conjunction with the University of Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) is now offering the option to take pesticide applicator and operator exams online. All exams are proctored through an exam proctoring service to be compliant with federal certification and licensing guidelines.

“In order to safely test our applicators and operators across the state following IDPH guidelines, we needed to create a mechanism to supplement limited in-person testing,” said IDOA Acting Director, Jerry Costello II. “Through partnership with the University of Illinois we are able to offer a safe and secure on-line testing process.”

To date approximately 4,000 applicators have completed the online testing. The cost for a three-year license remains unchanged, however online testing will include a \$12 fee that is paid directly to the proctoring service. For more information or to enroll for an exam, please visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/psep/training-testing>

In place of traditional in-person pesticide training, the University of Illinois PSEP offers supplemental online training courses to prepare applicators and operators for their exams. For more information visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/psep>.

For those needing an alternative to online testing, IDOA is offering small capacity, in-person testing for all pesticide exams. Due to COVID social-distancing requirements and occupancy restrictions, there will be limited availability of in-person testing sessions. Please check the IDOA website often at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Pesticides/Pages/default.aspx> as occupancy restrictions and location availability may change frequently.

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