



Custom Applicator

Custom Applicators are responsible for the operation of spray equipment and the effective application of pesticides or fertilizer.



Inspiring Minds to Grow


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career profile

Name: Dwayne White
Job Title: Custom Applicator


Employer: Land O'Lakes

Education: Lincoln High School: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

 I took agriculture classes in high school and found the units on integrated pest management interesting. I was pretty good at the math required for mixing and applying pesticides, and I knew there were jobs in the area for pesticide applicators. So, after graduation I decided to study for the pesticide applicator's exam. I passed the exam and landed a job with Land O'Lakes.

 As a pesticide applicator, I work with chemical pesticides and fertilizers. The chemicals I handle are toxic. The company places a high priority on protecting people from exposure to chemical pesticides and the environment from pollution. Therefore, I follow strict guidelines to protect myself, the general public, and the

environment. I handle and store the chemicals in a safe manner. I mix, load, and apply pesticides and fertilizers. I'm careful to apply pesticides and fertilizers as needed and at the proper rates. I follow the required protocol for disposing of the pesticide containers. I operate and maintain sprayers, spreaders, and trucks. One of my important tasks is the calibration of sprayers and spreaders to ensure proper delivery rates. I perform daily vehicle inspections and maintain the equipment. I also keep application records and coordinate application timetables with customers.

 This career has been a good fit for me. I feel competent, and my boss knows that jobs assigned to me will get done the right way.



Custom Applicator

overview



A **custom applicator** is responsible for the application of pesticides and fertilizer and the operation of spray equipment.

suggested high school courses



plant science, biology, chemistry, mathematics, and business

experience needed



On-the-job training is typical for custom applicators. Plan and implement a related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

degree(s) required



A high school diploma and an associate's degree are helpful. A pesticide applicator's license is required.

potential employers



cooperatives, crop protection companies, large farms, seed companies, self-employment

salary range



\$32,298 to \$45,050

employment outlook and trends



The employment outlook for custom applicators is **good**.

professional organizations



Crop Science Society of America www.crops.org/
Weed Science Society of America www.wssa.net/



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