

# Custom Applicator

A custom applicator makes sure that application equipment is working properly and applies the intended herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers to fields. Applicators are a point of contact between customers and a cooperative or business.

## *What responsibilities will I have?*

- Operate and maintain all equipment and vehicles including, sprayers, spreaders, combines, trucks, etc.
- Mixing, loading, and application of pesticides/fertilizers with precision
- Apply pesticides and fertilizers at applicable rates to the appropriate fields
- Handle and deliver bulk and packaged chemicals
- Perform daily vehicle inspections including checking oil levels, tire pressure, etc.
- Clean and maintain equipment; keep equipment looking sharp in order to maintain the image of the cooperative
- Maintain application/spray records for account records, sales agronomists, and customers
- Manage relations with customers in a professional manner
- Organize and coordinate application timetables with customers while keeping the needs of the cooperative, weather, and seasonal trends in mind
- Knowledgeable with seed, chemicals, and fertilizer to make informed decisions
- Ability to follow precise instruction and make meticulous measurements
- Applicators must recertify their spraying technician license and safety training every two years

## *What education and training is necessary?*

An associates degree is not required but would make it easier to obtain a job as a customer applicator. An agronomy technician post-secondary education would be a great tract of study to follow.

## *What high school courses are recommended?*

Agriculture education, science, biology, chemistry, mathematics, business, and computer courses

## *Who are typical employers in agriculture?*

Cooperatives, seed companies, crop protection agencies, large farms, self-employed, or work as an independent contractor

## *Other Titles and Roles:*

Equipment operator, truck driver, field operator, facility operator, mechanic, plant operator, equipment maintenance