Producers that spray restricted-use pesticides on their farm are required to have a valid private pesticide applicator license. Private certification only allows a producer to spray agricultural lands that they own or operate. For private certification, the applicator needs to take an open book exam and pay a 25.00 fee. However, for some people, they may prefer a review of what they have studied and the ability to ask questions they may have before completing the test.

On February 26th beginning with registration at 8:00 at the Great Bend Events Center, K-State Research and Extension and the Great Bend Coop will host Frannie Miller, KSRE Pesticide Safety and Integrated Pest Management (PSEP-IPM) Coordinator where she will talk about safe pesticide use and a general overview of the Private Pesticide material and test. She will also be on hand to answer or clarify any questions that you may have.

Pre-Registration is required by February 14th for this program so we can order the Private Pesticide book for each participant. When the books arrive, each person will purchase the book at the Extension Office at 1800 12th street in Great Bend for private study before the class. The class on February 26th will include an overview of pesticide use, then time to take the open book test followed by a lunch. A 25.00 check made out to KDA will be needed that day to pay for the license.

If you already have your private pesticide license and would just like to learn about the pesticides, you are welcome to attend the program and not take the test. A little extra education on pesticides is always a good idea.

Questions about this program can be directed to the Cottonwood Extension office in Great Bend at 1800 12th street or by calling 620-793-1910.

Alicia Boor is an Agriculture and Natural Resources agent in the Cottonwood District (which includes Barton and Ellis counties) for K-State Research and Extension. You can contact her by e-mail at aboor@ksu.edu or calling 620-793-1910