



DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES

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Requirements for Drone Pesticide Application

Drones have become a powerful tool in agriculture for monitoring crops and livestock, pesticide applications, high resolution imagery, weed scouting, and ground heat mapping.

Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) requires:

- Commercial and private pesticide applicators are required to be certified for category 17 aerial pesticide applications.
- Commercial applicators who make pesticide applications to Rights-of-Way must also be certified for category 7 rights-of-way applications.

Additionally, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires:

- The FAA Part 107 Certificate to operate/pilot the drone,
- FAA Part 137 Certificate authorization is required to carry out pesticide and other chemical application using a drone.
- Starting September 16, 2023, drones that apply pesticides will need to meet the FAA's remote identification requirements by broadcasting a signal that a third party can use to identify the drone in the air as well as the location of the operator.

Once Certified:

- Read and follow the aerial application instructions on each pesticide label, and
- Complete pesticide application records at the end of each business day.

To learn more, please contact the DANR team by calling (605) 773-4432 or
through our website at

<https://danr.sd.gov/Agriculture/Inspection/Pesticide/ApplicatorsDealers/default.aspx>

If you are ready for certification, contact your local SDSU extension office to take the exam.

