

# Custom Prescription Applicator



## What They Do

Custom applicators are responsible for the operation of spray equipment and the effective application of pesticides or fertilizer. They mix, load and apply pesticides and fertilizers to fields at approved applicable rates. In addition to the direct application, they are also often working directly with the farmer to discuss the soil composition, growing plans, and desired outcomes with farmers to make the best decisions about applications to be conducted.

## Job Duties

- Operate and maintain all equipment and vehicles
- Mix, load and apply pesticides and fertilizers
- Apply pesticides and fertilizers at applicable rates to the appropriate fields
- Handle and deliver bulk and packaged chemicals
- Perform daily vehicle inspections
- Clean and maintain equipment
- Maintain application/spray records
- Manage customer service relations
- Work with farmers to plan the most efficient and effective program to obtain desired outcomes
- Organize and coordinate application timeline with customers
- Knowledgeable of seed, chemicals, and fertilizers to make informed decisions
- Recertify spraying technicians license and safety training every two years

## Job Earnings

*\*\*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
(2019 Median Annual Salary)*

Average Annual Salary: \$32,298

## Education/Training

Certification as a commercial applicator is needed. An associate's degree is not required but would enhance the opportunity to obtain the job.

## Job Outlook

The current and future job market will be good for custom applicators.

# Custom Prescription Applicator - Career Pathway

Ways to Start Preparing for Your Future Career TODAY!

1

## Middle/High School Classes to Take:

- Agriculture Classes
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Business

2

## Clubs/Extracurricular Activities:

- Future Farmers of America (FFA) Club ([www.FFA.org](http://www.FFA.org))
- 4-H ([www.4-H.org](http://www.4-H.org))

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## Local BOCES/Career & Technical Education Programs:

- Genesee Valley BOCES ([www.GVBOCES.org](http://www.GVBOCES.org))
  - Conservation (Batavia & Mt. Morris Campuses)
  - Diesel Mechanic Program (Batavia & Mt. Morris Campuses)
- Monroe2-Orleans BOCES ([www.Monroe2BOCES.org](http://www.Monroe2BOCES.org))
  - Heavy Equipment Operation & Maintenance
- Orleans-Niagara BOCES ([www.ONBOCES.org](http://www.ONBOCES.org))
  - Diesel Technology/Heavy Equipment

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## Local Colleges/Training:

- Colleges:
  - SUNY Alfred ([www.alfredstate.edu](http://www.alfredstate.edu))
  - SUNY Cobleskill ([www.Cobleskill.edu](http://www.Cobleskill.edu))
  - SUNY Morrisville ([www.Morrisville.edu](http://www.Morrisville.edu))