

## **Crop Protection Application Certificate A Executive Overview**

**Detail:** Developed at the request of industry, this short term certificate provides coursework necessary for entry level employment. The courses in this certificate were recommended by members of Barton's Agriculture Advisory Board.

### **Rational**

- Changes in the agriculture industry have created an increased need for Crop Protection Applicators. These changes include more use of no-till agriculture and the increased demand by producers for the commercial application of crop protection products.
- The demand for grain crops continues to increase due to increased world demand for food and increased production of alternative fuels. Trained applicators help to meet this demand for increased grain production by increasing efficiency of grain production.
- The revised program responds to the agriculture industry's need for trained/skilled employees who can enter the workforce rapidly and continue their training while employed. The proposed changes offer an entry level certificate that will prepare students for employment in one semester, and then leads to a more advanced certificate and potential degree.

### **Courses in the Certificate:**

- Introduction to Soils with Lab
- Crop Protection
- Plant Science
- Fertilizer Management
- GPS in Agriculture
- Commercial Drivers License

### **Partnerships**

- Barton is partnering with NCKTC for the CDL class
- Barton has successfully applied for a Workforce Solutions Grant through the Kansas Department of Commerce – approximately \$74,000
- Industry partners have committed \$148,000 in support for this program
- Kansas WORKS has recruited clients for this program and continues to recruit
- Agriculture instructor coordinator has applied for summer industry internship

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board authorizes the President to submit application to the Kansas Board of Regents for the 22-hour Crop Protection Certificate.