

Mid-Plains Community College will offer two new online agricultural classes during the fall semester.

Introduction to soil science and the accompanying online lab is the study of soil science, including the development, physics, chemistry, biology, and classification of soils. Emphasis is placed on the role of soils in the growth of plants. A prerequisite of high school chemistry or one semester of college chemistry, sophomore standing, or permission of the instructor is required.

Introduction to pest management will teach proper methods for pesticide application and safety, and preparation for commercial pesticide applicator certification and relevant pesticides, their different forms, types, and modes of action.

Identification of plant pests, including morphology and life cycles of selected insects, weeds and diseases of horticultural plants will be included.

Pest control methods will include chemical, physical, mechanical, cultural, and biological techniques. Application of integrated pest management will be stressed.

According to course instructor Angie Peterson, this course would be especially beneficial to students who are preparing to apply for Nebraska pesticide applicator certification, as the class will be covering topics from that core manual.

Petersen is a range and forage research technologist at the West Central Research and Extension Center University of Nebraska.

For more information, contact Peterson at 308-696-6720 or call MPCC at 535-3701.