

Attachment D - Pesticide Management Practices

Pesticide Training and Certification: Obtain appropriate certification (through training), prior to pesticide use. Use a Qualified Pest Control Advisor to make recommendations.

Pesticide Recording Keeping: Requires maintaining a precise pest and pesticide record, and reading pesticide labels before purchase, use, or disposal; following label directions as required by law, and checking for groundwater advisories, or other water protection guidelines, so pesticide handling and application practices are known, and water quality impacts prevented.

Evaluate the Pesticide: Select pesticides less likely to leach to groundwater. Avoid pesticides that are highly water soluble, persistent, and do not adsorb to soil. The UC Extension Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are available to assist the public in selecting the appropriate pesticide.

Pesticide Selection: Select the least toxic and less persistent pesticide when feasible

Site-specific Pesticide: Avoid overuse of preventive pesticide treatments. Base pesticide application on site-specific pest scouting, and economic return indicators.

Integrated Pest Management: Integrated pest management (IPM) utilizes all means of pest control (chemical and nonchemical) in a compatible fashion to reduce crop loss. Pesticides are the last line of defense, and used only when pests cause sufficient damage to offset the expense of application.

Prevent backsiphoning and spills: Never allow a hose used to fill a spray tank to extend below the level of the water in the tank. Always haul water to the field to fill spray tanks, and mix and dilute pesticides. Contain pesticide spills as quickly as possible, and handle according to label directions. Use anti-siphon devices (inexpensive and effective) at water line.

Consider weather and irrigation plans: Never start pesticide applications if a weather event (rainfall for instance) is forecast that could cause drift or soil runoff at the application site. Application just before rainfall or irrigation may result in reduced efficacy if the pesticide is washed off the target crop, resulting in the need to reapply the pesticide.

Pesticide use: Use pesticides only when economic thresholds are reached, and purchase only what is needed

Leave buffer zones around sensitive areas: Read the pesticide label for guidance on required buffer zones around surface waters, buildings, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and other sensitive areas where applications are prohibited.

Reduce off-target drift: Never begin an application if wind or temperature facilitates pesticide drift to a non-target area. Use appropriate spray pressure and nozzle selection to minimize drift.

Application equipment: Maintain application equipment in good working order, and calibrate regularly.

Pesticide use and storage: Store pesticides on farm for a short time, and in a locked weather-tight enclosure downstream and a reasonable distance (greater than 100 ft) from wells or surface waters. Use appropriate protective equipment and clothing according to label instructions.

Dispose of pesticide and chemical wastes safely: Use pesticides and other agricultural chemicals only when necessary. Transport water to field in a nurse tank to mix and measure on site. Prepare only what is needed. Dispose of excess chemicals and containers according to label directions.