

# Pesticide Safety

## **Step 1) TALK TO NESFP STAFF**

If you decide to use pesticides to control a pest, first talk to NESFP staff about your decision.

## **Step 2) READ AND UNDERSTAND THE LABEL**

The label is the law. Please follow the label instructions carefully.

The most important information on the pesticide label is:

- Brand name, type of pesticide, and danger level
- Active chemicals
- First aid
- Directions
- Time before you can go back into the field
- Days to Harvest

**Please do not use a pesticide without a trained person to help you.**

## **Step 3) WEAR SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

Read the pesticide label to learn what safety gear is required. It is a law to wear the proper safety gear when you are using pesticides.

The most important safety equipment includes:

- Rubber gloves
- Shoes plus socks
- Masks
- Rubber Apron
- Long pants
- Long-sleeved shirt

## **Step 4) MEASURE AND MIX IN PESTICIDE AREA ONLY**

Please be very careful when you are measuring and mixing pesticides in the pesticide mixing area.

The most important things to remember are to:

- Follow the pesticide label instructions
- Use the pesticide steps you learned in the pesticides training.

## **Step 5) SPRAY SAFELY**

Please remember to keep your safety and the safety of other people in mind when you are using pesticides.

The most important things to think about are:

- The weather
- The time of day
- Other people at the farm.
- **FOR EMERGENCIES: GO TO A HOSPITAL QUICKLY. PLEASE REMEMBER TO CARRY THE NAME OF THE PESTICIDE THAT YOU WERE USING.**

### **Step 6) POST SIGNS**

Signs will tell other people that you have sprayed a pesticide. The signs help keep everyone safe.

The most important things to do after spraying your pesticide are:

- Put a pesticide sign in your field after spraying pesticides
- Take down the sign when it is safe to go back into the field.
- Do not harvest the crop until it is safe to harvest

### **Step 7) CLEAN UP & STORAGE**

The most important things to remember for pesticide **CLEAN UP** are:

- Always wash with soap and water after using pesticides
- Wash clothing you wore when spraying separately from other clothes.
- Clean and store all safety equipment and sprayers
- Use clean water to rinse empty sprayers
- Rinse and clean the sprayers three (3) times each time you use it
- Spray clean water through the sprayer when you are done using the sprayer
- Use pesticide equipment for pesticides only. Do not use pesticide equipment for anything else.
- Do not throw pesticides or pesticide bottles away in the trash

The most important things to remember for pesticide **STORAGE** are:

- Keep all chemicals in the locked pesticide cabinet at the farm.
- Protect pesticide containers when carrying them in your car. Keep them away from passengers, pets, and/or produce.
- Never store pesticides inside a vehicle or in your home or your shelter at the farm

### **Step 8) ALWAYS WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU SPRAY (use the NESFP record sheets)**

Please use the pesticide record sheet in the shed every time you spray a pesticide. If you need help writing on the sheet please ask an NESFP staff member.

## **Enforcing pesticide rules:**

It is your job to protect all farmers and their families from pesticides. You need to protect the people who eat your vegetables and the staff that help you on the farm. It is very important to follow pesticide safety rules and to always obey the law when using pesticides.

If you do not follow these guidelines then NESFP will need to take the following actions:

***First time breaking the rules:*** You will meet with an NESFP staff member to talk about reasons for the mistake. We will review the pesticide safety rules together. You will not be allowed to use pesticides without NESFP permission until we are sure that you have learned to use pesticides correctly.

***Second time breaking the rules:*** You will be dismissed from the farm site and NESFP programs.

Please refer to **Consequences and Probation** section of this manual for further details.