

Safe Handling & Use of Pesticides on the Farm

A pesticide is any substance or a mixture of substances used to prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate pests. Pesticides commonly used on the farm include herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides. Exposure to pesticides can seriously impact human health and that of the environment. Following these safety guidelines can greatly reduce the risk of an unhealthy exposure.

-Always store pesticides in a locked, well ventilated cupboard or in a storeroom, out of reach of children and away from food, water, seeds, feed, fertilizers and supplies.

-Always store pesticides in their original container with the label attached, and check the containers periodically for leaks, corrosion or breaks.

-Never purchase or store pesticides in water, juice, soft drink, alcohol, juice bottles or plastic bags.

Do not use empty pesticide containers to store water.

-Always READ the label and become familiar with the pesticide before use and FOLLOW the directions on the label for the correct dosage and use. Observe the safety precautions on the label.

-Only prepare the amount needed for the application.

-Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) for mixing, application and

clean up of pesticides (gloves, coveralls or long sleeved shirts and pants, goggles, boots, respirators).

-Stand up wind and mix or pour pesticides in a well-ventilated area, and below waist level to minimize any splash, dust or fumes near the face. Use proper equipment and not your bare hands to mix.

- Do not inhale, drink or allow pesticides to come into direct contact with your skin.

- Do not eat, drink or smoke while using pesticides.

- Clean up spills immediately.

-Do not spray or apply pesticides to crops less than seven days before harvesting.

-Do not wash pesticides equipment and containers in wells, blue holes, the sea or water holding tanks.

-Triple rinse and dispose of empty containers properly.

