LECTURE - 14: Pesticide Safety & Reducing spray drift

Major topics to be discussed:

- The Worker Protection Standard
- Providing the WPS training to students
- Factors to reduce pesticide drift
The Worker Protection Standard
Introduction

- WPS – a federal regulation admin. By EPA
- Provides for worker protection where pesticides are applied
- Pesticide means: any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest and any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant.
The WPS – Employer protection responsibilities
Worker Definitions

- **Ag. Worker** – in general is employed for any type of compensation and has tasks such as harvesting, weeding or watering on farm, forest, nursery or greenhouse.

- **Pesticide Handler** – mix, load and apply pesticides or do other tasks that may involve direct contact with pesticides.
The WPS – Who needs to apply

- Employers, owners and managers of farms, forests, nurseries or greenhouses.
- Pesticides applied in production of agricultural plants.
- Full or part time workers employed.
- Businesses with people that apply pesticides or employ crop advisors.
The WPS – Pesticides NOT covered

- Pastures and rangelands.
- Control of vertebrate pests like rats
- Ag. Plants harvested such as packing houses or cut timber
- Governmental-sponsored wide area public pest control like mosquito abatement or Med-fly eradication.
The WPS – Pesticides NOT covered

• Livestock or other animals and their containment areas
• Non commercial or non research plants = home fruit and gardens.
• Ornamental gardens, parks, golf courses other ornamental grounds.
• Non-ag sites: rights of way, non-crop areas and structural pest control
• Research used of unregistered pesticides
The WPS – Pesticides covered

- Pesticides used in the production of ag. Plants on farms, forests, nurseries and greenhouses.
- Both general use and restricted use pesticides
- Product labels that refer to WPS requirements in the Agricultural Use Requirement Box
Agricultural Use Requirements:
Use this product only in accordance with its labeling and with the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR part 170. This Standard contains requirements for the protection of agricultural workers on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses, and handlers of agricultural pesticides. It contains requirements for training, decontamination, notification, and emergency assistance. It also contains specific instructions and exceptions pertaining to the statements on this label about personal protective equipment (PPE) and restricted-entry interval. The requirements in this box only apply to uses of this product that are covered by the Worker Protection Standard.

Agricultural Use Requirements: (Cont.)
Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted entry interval (REI) of 24 hours, except for the following:
- Onions, garlic and horseradish: The REI is 48 hours
- Conifer seedlings: The REI is 3 days
- Conifer trees: The REI is 6 days

PPE required for early entry to treated areas that is permitted under the Worker Protection Standard and that involves contact with anything that has been treated, such as plants, soil or water, is:
- Coveralls
- Chemical-resistant gloves made of any waterproof material
- Shoes plus socks
The WPS – Exemptions for Agricultural Owners

- Owners of ag. Establishments and member of their immediate families
- Includes: only spouses, brothers, sisters, parents and step-children/parents, foster-children/parents
- Owner is any person who has an interest (fee, leasehold or rental) in an agricultural establishment.
- A person who leased the establishment to another person, granted full management authority and use is NOT an owner under WPS.
The WPS – Key provisions

- Anti-retaliation
- Central Notification Site
- Decontamination
- Pesticide Safety and Training
- Information Exchange
- Emergency Assistance
The WPS – Key provisions

- Anti-retaliation

Do not retaliate against a worker or handler who attempts to comply with the WPS
The WPS – Key provisions

- Anti-retaliation
- Central Notification Site

1. EPA Pesticide Safety Poster
2. Emergency Information: name, tel-#, and address of nearest medical facility
3. Application List: location of area treated, product name, EPA reg-#, a.i., time and date of application and restricted entry interval (REI)
The WPS – Key provisions

- Central Notification Site

1. EPA Pesticide Safety Poster
The WPS – Key provisions

- Central Notification Site
The WPS – Key provisions

• Decontamination - Supplies

1. Water for routine washing
2. Emergency eye flushing
3. Soap and single use towels
4. Workers – 1 gallons each
5. Handler – 3 gallons each
The WPS – Key provisions

• Pesticide Safety and Training

1. Handlers must be trained before doing any handling tasks
2. Workers trained before the 6\textsuperscript{th} day of their initial employment.
The WPS – Key provisions

• Information Exchange

1. Orally warn workers of application
2. Post Warning signs
3. Post all greenhouse application at all entrances
The WPS – Key provisions

- Emergency Assistance

1. Employers must provide emergency assistance to anyone injured by pesticides
2. Promptly make emergency transportation available
3. Provide pesticide information to include: label, product name, EPA reg.#, a.i.
4. First aid treatment and antidote.
The WPS – Key provisions

• Anti-retaliation
• Central Notification Site
• Decontamination
• Pesticide Safety and Training
• Information Exchange
• Emergency Assistance