

ANR Cooperative Extension Risk Assessment Best Practices

Chemicals & Pesticides

A. Chemical Storage, Application and Monitoring

1. Monitor storage and use of chemicals and pesticides
2. Turn to Research and Extension Center Administrative Office (REC AO) for assistance with problems
3. Interact with the Agricultural Commissioner
4. Limit the purchase and storage of chemicals and pesticides by having cooperator purchase and store material (transfer of liability with agreement)
5. Store and maintain chemicals properly
6. Maintain requirement that advisors who do field testing must hold a QAC/ PCA license
7. Develop a checklist for chemical storage/application/disposal to be shared with collaborators
8. Maintain up-to-date chemical inventories
9. Identify training responsibilities of supervisors
10. Post safety regulations/guidelines in conspicuous or accessible places
11. Use Research and Extension Center Administrative Offices (REC AO) and county experts in making risk assessments of existing conditions
12. Correct or report problems before they explode or erupt (i.e., be proactive)
13. Plan for proper chemical and pesticide disposal
14. Comply with regulations on use of non-registered materials
15. Conduct risk assessment on projects to determine the necessary controls needed and the level of approval authority

B. Training and Policy

1. Provide worker training
2. Provide clearly written policies and rules
3. Have county-based Injury and Illness Prevention Programs (IIPPs) in place
4. Properly train and inform clients, collaborators, and staff about pesticide storage/application
5. Train staff about using protective equipment while working with chemicals
6. Have formal training for new advisors in area of plant protection product testing (e.g., safety protocol, communication with growers)
7. Implement a University-wide safety training program for (1) laboratory procedures, and (2) greenhouse and field procedures
8. Implement system-wide training and oversight regarding chemical and pesticide use/storage
9. Conduct annual review of certification, documentation of status

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10. Require training and certification for field staff
11. Train clients, collaborators and staff on pesticide storage and application

C. Collaborators and Clients

1. Establish methods to monitor collaborators regularly and enforce agreements
2. Have a written agreement or documented understanding with collaborators on the use and application of chemicals and pesticides to limit liability
3. Centralize oversight for recommendation(s) to public regarding pesticide use and application (e.g., statewide coordinator)
4. Work with industry and growers to test new products for all forms of pest control
5. Use facilities/locations as models for others when they have done a good job (e.g., sharing of information)
6. Ensure compliance of collaborators with agreements for use of pesticides on crop/test plots, etc.