



Managing Farm Chemicals

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Proper management of farm chemicals—pesticides, fertilizers, fuels, and oils,—is no longer an option; it's a legal requirement. Just as important, your dedication to good chemical management affords an excellent opportunity to improve your farming operation. Land without chemical contamination is far more valuable than land that has been chemically abused; it is more productive and easier and less expensive to manage. Your efforts in managing farm chemicals and preserving the environment exemplify your concern for family, neighbors, and community.

The most gratifying benefit of good farm chemical management—and perhaps the most important—is unpolluted land that you can pass on to your children, and they to theirs.

The manner in which you handle and manage all types of farm chemicals can have a major impact on the worth of your property—and planning for emergencies is a vital component of good chemical management.

Take time to read this brochure, noting items that need attention on your farm.



Think it through and ask yourself what might happen if an emergency situation were to occur. If you don't know, or if you don't like thinking about what *probably* would happen, take the time, now, to implement the following suggestions. You have a lot at stake.

Many farm insurance policies do not cover pollution from chemical spills or fires.



Contact your insurance agent to confirm the scope of your coverage. (PPP-49)

- Store all chemicals in ONE location, away from wells, ditches, animals, and equipment.
- Store chemicals in the smallest quantities possible. Use returnable/refillable containers or dry formulations with low use rates.
- Teach children to call 911 in an emergency and to *stay on the line until help arrives*.
- Plan ahead. Develop a safety and environmental contingency plan; share it with local authorities, emergency responders, employees, and your family. (PPP-44)
- Create a bulletin board accessible to family, employees, and emergency responders. (PPP-45) Post the following:
 - Notes telling what field you'll be working in
 - Labels and MSDSs for all chemicals on site
 - Pager and cell phone numbers
 - Phone numbers for chemical suppliers and retailers
 - 800 numbers for chemical manufacturers
 - Clear directions to your farm
 - Your written spill response plan



Set up a "mail box" (not your actual U.S. Mail Box) to make the following information immediately accessible in an emergency:

- Safety and environmental contingency plans
- Labels and MSDSs
- Chemical inventory and a diagram indicating where chemicals are stored

- Use large, reflective numbers on your U.S. Mail Box to facilitate responders in finding your farm during an emergency.

- Invite emergency responders to tour your farm.
- Put backflow devices on all wells and other water sources.
- Never pump water directly from a well into spray equipment.



- Draw water for pesticide mixes from a tank used for water only. Fill the water tank from the well, shut off the water, and fill the chemical tank from the water tank. This eliminates all possibility of backflow into the well.
- Do not burn or bury chemicals or their containers.
- Clean up all spills immediately. (PPP-42)
- Know state and federal laws for reporting spills. (PPP-28, PPP-32)
- Perform a walk-around inspection of all vehicles to check for potential problems such as leaking hoses. (PPP-27)
- Before making an application, write in your cab log the name of the product that you will be using.

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These suggestions are easy to implement and don't cost much. Invest a little time in the "preventive management" of your farm chemicals to lessen the likelihood of a chemical emergency. Ask your county extension educator (or Purdue Pesticide Programs) for assistance in following these suggestions. Call toll free, (888) 398-4636, if you need assistance in contacting the educator in your county; or call the same number and ask for Purdue Pesticide Programs.

Details pertinent to many of the suggestions in this brochure are available in corresponding Purdue Pesticide Programs publications (indicated in parentheses). These publications are accessible on the internet:

www.btny.purdue.edu/PPP/

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You have the right to apply pesticides, but remember that your neighbors also have property rights. Never allow your pesticides to drift onto the property of others.

