Acknowledgments

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Introduction

The decision to use a pesticide, whether organic, conventional or other type of pesticide should be made as part of an Integrated Pest Management program. Through Integrated Pest Management all approaches to managing pests are considered and then combined to create a plan that is economical, effective and minimizes harm to people and the environment. It’s in everyone’s interest to avoid all unnecessary pesticide use. If you use pesticides, it is essential to know how to use them safely, legally and to protect yourself and your family and the public. That is the purpose of this manual.

This manual1 is a study guide for private pesticide applicators—farmers, producers, and others who apply pesticides on land they own, rent or lease for production of an agricultural commodity. Only currently certified private applicators may apply Restricted Use Pesticides in Minnesota. The manual is designed to assist individuals preparing to take the exam to become a certified private pesticide applicator. However, all pesticide applicators growing and producing agricultural commodities should be familiar with the information in this manual. It also may be of value for anyone interested in agriculture, pest management and pesticides.

Using this Manual

This manual is divided into chapters and the chapters into major sections. Each section starts with a list of key “Learning Objectives” and a list of “Terms to Know.” The Learning Objectives and Terms to Know can be used as a guide to material more likely to appear on the private pesticide applicator certification exam. Keep in mind exam questions may be drawn from all material in the chapters, sections and the appendices.

Difficult and unfamiliar words or terms are explained as much as possible in the text. Words or terms that appear in Appendix B: Glossary are bolded in the text at their first major use. All Terms to Know can also be found in Appendix B: Glossary.

1Other manuals and training materials are available for Minnesota commercial, noncommercial and structural pesticide applicators through the Pesticide Safety & Environmental Education program of the University of Minnesota Extension (www.extension.umn.edu/pesticides)
# Table of Contents

Acknowledgments iii
Introduction v

## Chapter 1. Integrated Pest Management 1

**Section 1: What Is Integrated Pest Management?** 3

- Learning Objectives and Terms to Know 3
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 4

**Section 2: Pest Management Methods** 10

- Pest Control Goals 10
- Learning Objectives and Terms to Know 10
- Pest Management Methods 11
- Effective Pest Management Programs 16
- Managing Insects 18
- Managing Plant Diseases 22
- Managing Weeds 26
- Managing Vertebrate Pests 31
- Summary 33

## Chapter 2. Pesticide Laws 35

**Section 1: Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Amendments** 37

- Learning Objectives and Terms to Know 37
- Pesticides and FIFRA 37

**Section 2: Other Federal Pesticide Laws** 41

- Learning Objectives and Terms to Know 41
- Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) 42
- Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) 42
- Worker Protection Standard (WPS) 42
- OSHA Requirements 45
- ‘Farm Bill’ Pesticide Record-keeping Requirement 46
- USDOT Rules for Shipment of Pesticides 48
- FFA Rules on Aerial Application of Pesticides 48
- SARA Title III Reporting of Pesticide Storage 48

**Section 3: State Laws** 50

- Learning Objectives and Terms to Know 50
- Private Pesticide Applicator Certification 51
- Reporting Agricultural Chemical Spills 52
- Posting Pesticide-treated Fields 53
- Posting Required by the Pesticide Label 55
- Waste Pesticides and Container Disposal 55
- Pesticides in Aquatic Environments 55
- Chemigation 55
Chapter 3. The Pesticide Label

Section 1: The Importance of Pesticide Labeling

- Learning Objectives and Terms to Know
- Basis of Pesticide Labeling
- Types of Pesticide Registration
- When to Read the Pesticide Label

Section 2: Parts of the Label

- Learning Objectives and Terms to Know
- Trade, Brand, or Product Name
- Ingredient Statement
- Use Classification Statement
- Type of Pesticide
- Net Contents
- Name and Address of Manufacturer
- Emergency Telephone Number
- Registration Numbers
- Establishment Number
- Signal Words and Symbols
- Precautionary Statements
- Physical or Chemical Hazards
- Agricultural Use Requirements
- Non-agricultural Use Requirements
- Storage and Disposal
- Directions for Use
- Label Summary

Section 3: Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

- Learning Objectives and Terms to Know
- Components of the MSDS
- Summary

Chapter 4. Pesticide Formulations

Section 1: Overview of Pesticide Formulations

- Learning Objectives and Terms to Know
- Pesticide Formulations
- The Formulation Process
- Liquid Formulations
- Dry or Solid Formulations
- Other Formulations
# Table of Contents

Section 2: Pesticide Mixtures and Adjuvants ______________________ 101
  Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ___________________________ 102
  Pesticide Mixtures ____________________________________________ 102
  Adjuvants __________________________________________________ 103
  Summary _____________________________________________________ 107

Chapter 5. Protecting the Environment _____________ 109

Section 1: The Pesticide Applicator’s Environment ____________________ 111
  Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ___________________________ 111
  Pesticide Use and the Environment ________________________________ 112
  Pesticide Fate in the Environment ________________________________ 113
  Sensitive Sites _______________________________________________ 118

Section 2: Preventing Impacts of Pesticides on the Environment ______ 119
  Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ___________________________ 119
  Protecting Water ______________________________________________ 120
  Preventing Drift ______________________________________________ 125

Section 3: Protected Species __________________________________ 129
  Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ___________________________ 129
  Endangered Species Act ________________________________________ 130
  Steps to Protect Endangered Species ______________________________ 132

Chapter 6. Health and Safety _____________________ 133

Section 1: Pesticide Risks and Exposure _________________________ 135
  Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ___________________________ 135
  Toxicity of the Dose ____________________________________________ 136
  Routes of Entry into the Body ____________________________________ 137

Section 2: Recognizing Pesticide Exposure Symptoms ________________ 140
  Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ___________________________ 140
  Harmful Effects of Pesticides ____________________________________ 140
  Acute Health Effects ___________________________________________ 141
  Pesticide-specific Health Effects _________________________________ 143
  Chronic Health Effects __________________________________________ 145
  Other Types of Health Risk ______________________________________ 146
  Summary _____________________________________________________ 147

Section 3: Applying First Aid for Pesticide Exposure ________________ 148
  Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ___________________________ 148
  Planning for Emergencies _________________________________________ 149
  Basic First Aid for Pesticide Poisoning _____________________________ 150
  Summary _____________________________________________________ 154
Chapter 7. Safe Handling: The Application Process  ____ 157

Section 1: Safe Handling during Transportation, Storage, Mixing, Loading, and Application ................................................. 159

Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ................................................................. 159
Universal Pesticide Precautions ............................................................................ 160
Transporting Pesticides ......................................................................................... 160
Storing Pesticides ................................................................................................. 164
Mixing and Loading Pesticides ............................................................................. 167
Applying Pesticides ............................................................................................... 172

Section 2: Disposing of Pesticide Wastes and Empty Containers  ____ 174

Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ............................................................. 174-175
Disposing of Pesticide Wastes .............................................................................. 175

Section 3: Responding to a Pesticide Fire, Spill, or Other Incident ____ 181

Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ............................................................. 181
Incident Response Plan ......................................................................................... 182
Report Pesticide Spills ............................................................................................ 183
Incident Response—What to Do ............................................................................ 185
Clean up the Spill ..................................................................................................... 185
Respond to Fires ..................................................................................................... 186
Summary .................................................................................................................. 187

Chapter 8. Personal Protective Equipment ___________ 189

Section 1: Personal Protection ................................................................................ 191

Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ............................................................. 191
Clothing and Personal Protective Equipment (Protecting the Skin and Eyes) ........................................................................... 192

Section 2: Respiratory Devices .............................................................................. 200

Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ............................................................. 200
Respiratory Devices (Protecting the Lungs) ........................................................... 201
References on Respiratory Protection ..................................................................... 206

Chapter 9. Pesticide Application Procedures and Equipment ................................................. 207

Section 1: Methods of Pesticide Application and Types of Equipment __ 209

Learning Objectives and Terms to Know ............................................................. 209
Methods of Application ......................................................................................... 210
Safety Systems ......................................................................................................... 211
Application Equipment ............................................................................................ 212
Types of Nozzles ....................................................................................................... 216