Pesticide Applications – Are you Prepared?

Elizabeth Danielson  
Iowa State University, betsydan@iastate.edu

Kristine J. P. Schaefer  
Iowa State University, schaefer@iastate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews

Part of the Agricultural Science Commons, and the Agriculture Commons

Recommended Citation
https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/2621

The Iowa State University Digital Repository provides access to Integrated Crop Management News for historical purposes only. Users are hereby notified that the content may be inaccurate, out of date, incomplete and/or may not meet the needs and requirements of the user. Users should make their own assessment of the information and whether it is suitable for their intended purpose. For current information on integrated crop management from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, please visit https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/.
Pesticide Applications – Are you Prepared?

Abstract
With the critical need for respirators and other personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care, there is a potential shortage of PPE, particularly N95 respirators, in the marketplace for agriculture and pesticide applications.

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture
With the critical need for respirators and other personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care, there is a potential shortage of PPE, particularly N95 respirators, in the marketplace for agriculture and pesticide applications.

The pesticide label lists the required PPE. See “Wear PPE When Using Pesticides” for more information. Applicators who do not follow the label-specified PPE requirements because of lack of access to a respirator or other PPE put themselves at risk, potentially add to the need for medical care, and are in violation of the label. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made no exemption or relaxation of PPE requirements.

Review Pesticide Labels

Review the labels of products that are key to your agricultural commodities. Some herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide labels require N95 or other types of respirators to protect from exposure. Remember, all respirators, including N95 filtering face-piece respirators, require fit-testing, training, and medical evaluations. See “Using a Pesticide that Requires a Respirator?” for additional information.

Inventory PPE

Create a list of the PPE you currently have on-hand, including gloves, coveralls, eyewear, and respirators. Carefully assess that you have enough PPE for critical pesticide applications. Extra PPE can be donated to health care workers by contacting your local County Coordinator for Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

What if the Label-Required Respirator is Unavailable?
For pesticide products that require a respirator, look for an alternative product (not requiring a respirator) or management method. There may be a product with the same active ingredient, but the formulation type reduces the need for respiratory protection.

Unfortunately, the only way to query alternative products is to review their labels. The following websites can be used to search for products registered for use in Iowa:

- National Pesticide Information Retrieval System (NPIRS)
- Agrian
- CDMS

See also “Pesticide label references available online!” for more information on accessing labels online.

Links to this article are strongly encouraged, and this article may be republished without further permission if published as written and if credit is given to the author, Integrated Crop Management News, and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. If this article is to be used in any other manner, permission from the author is required. This article was originally published on April 2, 2020. The information contained within may not be the most current and accurate depending on when it is accessed.

Category: Pesticide Education

Tags: PPE, pesticide application, respirators, pesticide labels

Authors:

Elizabeth Danielson Extension Program Specialist III

Betsy Danielson is an extension program specialist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. She is part of the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP), conducts pesticide applicator training focusing on seed treatment and fumigation, and develops resource materials for e...

Kristine Schaefer PSEP Program Manager I

Kristine is the program manager for the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.