

PESTICIDE REGULATION

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**The subject of risk and the use of pesticides needs to be seen from two points, risk evaluation and risk management.**

Pesticides are designed to kill something. E.P.A. registration carries no label of safety but does say that it will do something if used properly. The substance has been evaluated, and the benefits outweigh the risks, so it is registered. The evaluation process does not consider the effect of chronic pesticide buildup in the human system. We do know that poisoning by toxins can be correlated to body weight and that children and the elderly are more susceptible to these substances. The medical profession knows very little about pesticide poisoning other than the effects of acute poisoning. Data needs to be collected from pesticide applicators to see if they experience pesticide buildup and what symptoms may develop.

**Pesticide application certification is totally inadequate. The level of training does not fully explain the risks of pesticide exposure to the applicator and others.**

We can, however, manage the risk of exposure to pesticide. In the past, our encounter with pesticides has been without choice both directly and indirectly. Pesticide prior notification regulations are new and controversial. The purpose is to allow

sufficient time for people who will be exposed to pesticides to make a choice. People may choose not to go to work, not to go to school, not to eat in a restaurant and so forth.

In agriculture, the main concern is to protect people but still allow production to continue. It will help applicators understand their responsibility and obligations to the public.