



EPA Pesticide Drift Labeling

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comment of their draft Pesticide Registration (PR) Notice on Pesticide Drift Labeling. They have proposed to add a general spray drift statement that is vague and excessively broad and sets an unachievable zero drift standard.

EPA is also seeking public comment on a petition from the activist groups Earthjustice and Farmworker Justice to impose no spray zones or buffers, claiming that it would add additional protections for children.

Individual comments or letters to EPA from farmers are critical in making sure EPA understands the full impact of its actions. For your convenience talking points can be found below.

Here is what you can do today:

Go to www.regulations.gov and search for docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0628 to read the documents and submit a letter expressing your opinion and how this EPA action would affect you. The DEADLINE is March 5, 2010.

Lend your name to the fight by signing the Defend American Farmers Against Frivolous Lawsuits online petition. Go to <http://www.gopetition.com/online/33776.html> and click on "sign petition".

More information and details can also be found on FBACT. This link will provide you with a sample letter that you can cut and paste and various options on how to submit comments. Click here to access FBACT.

Oregon Farm Bureau will be submitting comments and will provide those to the OFB membership upon submission. Questions and comments can be directed to Gail Greenman, National Affairs and Grassroots Specialist at gail@oregonfb.org or 503.931.3398 or Jennifer Shmikler, Regulatory Affairs Specialist at jennifer@oregonfb.org or 503.399.1707.

Talking Points:

(1) Protection of human health for adults and children and of the environment is best accomplished through a Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) approved and enforced label for the pesticide product, which include Directions for Use that are based upon a risk assessment and incorporate mitigations and application techniques designed to minimize drift.

(2) The issue of Spray Drift has been discussed and scientifically studied for years, Recently, two large agriculture producing states, Florida and Washington, confirmed that risks to bystanders, if they were exposed to pesticide drift, are well below levels that would pose a health concern; therefore, ubiquitous interim buffers are unnecessary.