

31. PESTICIDE APPLICATION, EDUCATION, AND RECORDKEEPING

Proper understanding and handling of crop protection products is important to every farmer.

We support:

1. The pesticide applicator certification as a means to assure society that farmers and other licensed applicators are trained and knowledgeable.
2. Encouraging pesticide applicators to be aware of liabilities for drift to all crop and non-crop land that is pesticide-sensitive.
3. Encouraging non-agricultural users of pesticides to become better educated on their safe use and potential environmental impacts.
4. Urging the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to review any incorrect Illinois Pesticide Applicators' License exam answers to give applicants the opportunity to become more knowledgeable.
5. Giving individuals the option of either taking training and testing of all license categories online or in the classroom.
6. Amending current private applicator license procedures to create a license that is valid for five years.
7. Federal law that mandates U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to use university data and other credible agricultural industry sources to determine actual pesticide usage levels.
8. Restricted use pesticide recordkeeping that protects the interests and confidentiality of farmers and their records.
9. Making IDOA the lead state agency to implement and administer all pesticide recordkeeping.
10. Increased funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to increase credible information on pesticide use collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).
11. A change in statute and/or regulations that would allow a custom applicator service to be assigned the responsibility of keeping pesticide application records for landowners and operators.

We oppose any pesticide recordkeeping requirements that create additional farmer liability for applying pesticides according to label instructions.