

Important Contacts

IDALS Pesticide Bureau
(515) 281-8591
pesticides@iowaAgriculture.gov
iowaagriculture.gov/pesticides.asp

DriftWatch / BeeCheck
driftwatch.org
beecheck.org

Poison Control Center
(800) 222-1222

National Pesticide Information Center
(800) 858-7378
npic.orst.edu

Federal Aviation Association
National: 1 (866) TELL-FAA
faa.gov/contact

Look Up the N-Number:
(The N number is the registration number on the plane)
registry.faa.gov/aircraftinquiry/NNum_Inquiry.aspx

Central Region Regional Operations Center
(816) 329-3000 – (Incident Response)

Pesticide Action Network
(612) 284-5023
info@panna.org
panna.org

Pesticide Information Online
pesticideinfo.org

In Case of Drift - Toolkit
panna.org/resources/case-pesticide-drift

Practical Farmers of Iowa
(515) 232-5661
info@practicalfarmers.org
practicalfarmers.org/pesticide-drift

PFI Resources:

- Pesticide Drift and the Law
- Template Letters for Neighbors and Applicators
- Template Reporting Email
- List of Private Labs for Residue Testing
- Recorded Webinars: Pesticide Drift and Response

What to Expect from the IDALS Pesticide Bureau

- The Pesticide Bureau at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) regulates pesticide registration and applicator licensing, and investigates pesticide misuse complaints (like pesticide drift).
- When you report a pesticide misuse complaint (drift event) to the Pesticide Bureau, detailed information is critical to its investigation. Use the form in this brochure as a guide.
- The Pesticide Bureau will send a field investigator to your farm within five working days:
 - » **For food crops and cases related to human health:** The bureau will try to expedite chemical analysis of samples to provide results within two weeks.
 - » **However, some chemical results may take 60 days or more.** If you need more immediate results, you will need to use a private lab (a list is available on PFI's website).

After the IDALS Pesticide Bureau Investigation

The Pesticide Bureau may levy fines (up to \$500 per violation, payable to the state general fund) against applicators for violations of Iowa Code Section 206, but they cannot advise or help you seek compensation for damages from applicators. **To be compensated, you (or a legal representative) must contact the applicator directly.** The Pesticide Bureau can provide you with the applicator's contact information.

When you contact the applicator, ask for its insurance contact. The applicator (private or commercial) is responsible for having insurance to cover pesticide misuse, including drift. If you have damages to your person or property, you are entitled to compensation from the applicator.

Special thanks to: *Californians for Pesticide Reform for use of its publications; IDALS Pesticide Bureau; and PFI's many Iowa farmers for their contributions to this guide and our on-going work.*

Want copies or have questions? *Contact Liz Kolbe at liz@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661.*

More resources and information *on agriculture and pesticide drift in Iowa is available at practicalfarmers.org. For information on pesticide policy work, research and advocacy, visit panna.org.*

Protect Your Right to Farm

Pesticide Drift Response Guide for Iowa's Farmers and Rural Residents



Updated May 2018



What is Pesticide Drift?

Pesticide drift is the physical movement of a pesticide through air at the time of application or soon thereafter, to any site other than that intended for application. Avoiding ALL off-site movement is the responsibility of the applicator.

How Can You Tell if You Have Experienced Drift?

Pesticide drift can be recognized as a cloud of pesticide spray or dust, or an unpleasant odor. Pesticide application can be done by plane, helicopter or tractor. Other times you may not see or smell the pesticides when spray drift occurs. If the drifting pesticide is an herbicide, you may notice plant damage. If the drifting pesticide is an insecticide or fungicide, you will not see any plant damage but the plants could be contaminated.





Pesticide Drift Reporting Form

Do you think you've experienced drift? Record the details and contact the Pesticide Bureau at (515) 281-8591 or email pesticides@iowaagriculture.gov.

Include your name, address and phone number.

→ Describe what happened. Be as specific as possible. (Indicate where you were; what you saw, smelled and tasted; who was present; and any actions taken).

→ Did you see any spraying vehicles or planes? List any plane or sprayer registration numbers you saw; agency or company names; or vehicle markings or colors.

→ Were any crops, livestock, people or natural areas affected? Note everything that was affected, and any symptoms observed.

→ Are any affected crops or livestock products intended for consumption? ☐ Yes ☐ No

→ Are you on DriftWatch or BeeCheck? ☐ Yes ☐ No

→ What were the weather conditions? Note the wind speed (no wind, light breeze, medium wind, strong wind, gusty wind); wind direction; skies (clear, cloudy, foggy, rain or drizzle); and temperature.

If You or Your Property Are Exposed to Pesticides:

- **Close the windows** and turn off air conditioning or heat
- **Leave the area immediately** or call 911 if you feel too sick to drive
- **Change out of your contaminated clothes** and shower with warm water and soap
- **Put contaminated clothes in a plastic bag** for testing; otherwise wash them separately from other laundry
- **Alert your neighbors**
- **See a doctor if you experience ANY symptoms of pesticide exposure**, which may include: eye, nose or throat irritation; difficulty breathing; skin irritation; rash; headache; stomachache; diarrhea; nausea; vomiting; dizziness; tremors; muscle weakness; blurred vision; eye irritation; excessive sweating; or fever
- **Report the pesticide incident as soon as possible:** Contact the Pesticide Bureau at the Department of Agriculture and file an incident report (see "Important Contacts"). Without an official investigation by the Pesticide Bureau of the pesticide drift event, you may not be able to receive compensation for damages.
- **Record everything:** Write down the details of the event (you can use the unofficial form on the inside-right panel of this brochure).

“Call the Pesticide Bureau immediately if you have a drift event. When the investigator visits, ask him or her to help you take additional samples to send to private labs for testing.”
– Rob Faux, Genuine Faux Farm

Be Proactive About Prevention:

1. Notify neighboring farmers and surrounding cooperatives of your operation and concerns. An annual letter is useful for documentation (templates at practicalfarmers.org/pesticide-drift). – **Laura Krouse, Abbe Hills Farm**
2. Ask neighbors to notify you when they plan to spray. Ask the cooperatives, too. Cultivate friendly relationships with your farming neighbors. – **Annie Grieshop, Melbourne, Iowa**
3. Consider keeping bees, and register them on BeeCheck. Bee hives have special protection under the Iowa Code. – **Andy Dunham, Grinnell Heritage Farm**
4. Register on DriftWatch and renew your registration each year. It's a good service from IDALS that we should use to our advantage. – **Laura Krouse, Abbe Hills Farm**
5. Take a screenshot when you update your DriftWatch listing to provide documentation of your activity. – **Rob Faux, Genuine Faux Farm**
6. Call your county office responsible for ditch spraying and ask to be put on a no-spray list. If they don't have a list, suggest that they start one. – **Annie Grieshop, Melbourne, Iowa**
7. Obtain “No-Spray” signs from DriftWatch or BeeCheck and post them around your property. – **Annie Grieshop, Melbourne, Iowa**



Advice from Farmers

8. Carry a camera in the field to document any incidents. If possible, get photos of the applicator's N-number, if an airplane, or registration number if a ground rig. – **Rob Faux, Genuine Faux Farm**
9. Assess the value of your production – even a home garden. What would it cost you to buy that produce? How much time and labor is required to manage the affected area? Replace your trees? If you're certified organic, how will future years of production be affected? – **Andy Dunham, Grinnell Heritage Farm**

Your Actions Can Make a Difference!

- **Prevent drift in your area.** If county authorities recognize that drift is happening, they may fine the person or company who drifted onto you. When growers and applicators know they are being watched, they tend to be more careful.
- **Report drift incidents to the IDALS Pesticide Bureau.** If you were harmed or your property was damaged, the applicator who drifted on you is responsible for property damages or lost revenue related to the drift. Filing an incident report with the IDALS Pesticide Bureau is an important part of the documentation process.
- **Create a record to show that drift is a problem.** Many authorities don't believe drift is a problem. The more calls they get, the more they'll know how often it happens. Unless you file an incident report, there is no official record of the incident. Records it harder for them to ignore!