

Pesticide Management

Ag Water Quality Plan Fact Sheet

June 2002

Over-application of pesticides can lead to runoff into streams and leaching into groundwater supplies. Users should be aware that pesticides can have a wide range of application methods and rates depending on soil type, crop type, season, and geographic location. Using backflow devices is critical to protecting water supplies, and calibrating equipment prevents over application while cutting operating costs. It is relatively easy to determine if your land is under compliance with Ag Water Quality Plan guidelines. Applications generally fall into three classes: 1) BMPs clearly visible and working; 2) No observable problems but absence of BMPs leaves room for improvement; and 3) Evidence that unsound practices are leading to surface or ground water pollution.

1) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)



Wearing the proper personal protective devices is a key step toward safety.



Pesticides are stored in clean, dry area with warning signs posted.



Warning sign posted in entryway promotes safety awareness.



Calibrating your equipment saves both money and the environment.

Yamhill River Basin SB 1010 Ag Water Quality Standards



Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District
2200 SW 2nd Street • McMinnville, Oregon 97128
Phone: (503) 472-6403 • Fax: (503) 472-2459 • Website: www.yamhillswcd.org

2) ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



Pesticides are stored indoors, but without any catch basins.



Chemicals are stored in separate building, but there are no warning signs.

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3) CLEAR INDICATORS OF NON-COMPLIANCE



Keeping old, degraded bags of pesticides can result in contamination.



Spraying pesticides on windy days allows drift into adjacent areas.



Obviously, this is not the best way to dispose of used pesticide containers!



A pesticide spill waiting to happen.