With every job comes a certain level of risk. Even those who work in office environments are at a health risk for an overabundance of sitting and too much screen time. The risks from working in agriculture, however, are a bit more obvious. From working with heavy machinery and equipment to unpredictable animals, farming can be an intense occupation. To counteract risks from working with pesticides in the field or around the farm, there are measures that must be taken to reduce the risk of danger on the field.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Agricultural Worker Protection Standards (WPS) are designed to reduce the risk of pesticide poisoning and injury among agricultural workers and pesticide applicators. The requirements in the WPS are intended to...

**What Do Worker Protection Standards Accomplish?**

- Inform workers and handlers about pesticide safety (access to pesticide safety training, labeling info and more).
- Protect workers and handlers from potential exposure to pesticides (keep workers out of recently treated areas, monitor crop protection product handlers and more).
- Mitigate exposures that do occur (provide access to information about pesticide exposure, decontamination supplies, and emergency assistance via available transportation to a medical care facility and other important safety measures).

**What Is the Purpose Of Pesticide Labeling?**

Pesticide labels provide instructions on using pesticides safely and effectively, proper storage, first aid measures when needed, manufacturer/distributor contact information, and other helpful details. The EPA evaluates the safety data that accompanies a registration document and requires that the label translate that data into a set of conditions, directions and precautions that define who may use a pesticide as well as where, when, how, how much, and how often it may be used.

**Who is covered?**

- Pesticide handlers and agricultural workers.
- Any person or plant that may be in contact with the pesticide, including pesticide handlers, agricultural workers, consumers, children, pets, and non-target organisms.