

CHEMICAL & PESTICIDE SAFETY ON THE FARM



AgHealth
Central States
Center for Agricultural
Safety and Health

University of Nebraska
Medical Center™



Chemicals and pesticides are used on farms for a multitude of reasons. Pesticides are used to get rid of pests and weeds. When label directions aren't followed, they can be dangerous. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates there are over 10,000 poisonings each year, but just over a quarter of them occur on the job. Most poisonings take place in the home.

SYMPTOMS OF CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

If any of the following symptoms occur after handling chemicals, call 911 or go to the closest emergency room.

- Headaches
- Fever/sweating
- Dilated or teary eyes
- Nausea
- Poisoning
- Difficulty breathing
- Burns
- Excessive salivation



Tip:

Take the label (or a picture of it) with you to the medical facility.

COMMON CHEMICALS & PESTICIDES ON THE FARM

- Insecticides: to kill insects
- Fertilizers: to enhance plant growth
- Herbicides: to stop plant growth
- Fungicides: to kill fungus
- Fuels: to provide heat or energy
- Lubricants: to grease parts
- Solvents: to dissolve substances

CHEMICAL & PESTICIDE EXPOSURE CAN TAKE PLACE IN MANY WAYS

- Swallowed: drank or eaten
- Inhaled: breathed through nose into lungs
- Skin exposure: absorption accounts for 97% of exposures
- Eye exposure: splashing liquid chemicals
- Injection: cuts or needles

GET IN TOUCH

402-552-3394

go.unmc.edu/cs-cash/cs-cash-contact

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PREVENTING HARM FROM FARM CHEMICALS & PESTICIDES

A chemical label is the law. Read the label before using any chemical or pesticide. Follow instructions about mixing, application, and clean-up.

LABEL COMPONENTS & PURPOSES

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listing of what PPE should be used when working with the specific chemical. It might be gloves, eye protection, coveralls, and/or respirators. It's different for each chemical.• Replace respirator masks and cartridges when suggested on the label.• Some PPE have expiration dates. If they have expired, replace them.• If you don't have the required PPE, don't apply the chemical.• Ensure that everyone on the farm knows about the hazards posed by chemicals.
Toxicity Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Danger - most dangerous• Warning• Caution - least dangerous 
How to apply the chemical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dosages and mixing instructions ensure the correct amount is used.
Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dispose of the container safely according to EPA's recommendations.• Dispose of used PPE as indicated on the label.

RESOURCES

Scan QR codes with your smartphone or click the links to access additional resources.



UMASH:
Chemical PPE
Farm Safety
Check



UMASH:
Chemical
Storage Area
Farm Safety
Check



EPA:
Requirements
for Pesticide
Storage