
11. Occupational Hazards: The Risks Pesticides Pose to Farmworkers

- Objectives:
- To develop understanding of state and federal pesticide regulations, and need for pesticide use and illness recordkeeping and stronger enforcement of pesticide worker protection laws.
 - To increase understanding of the implications of our current agricultural system and pesticide use practices on farmworker health.

Activities:

- Invite a representative from a farmworker labor union or other farmworker organization to speak to your class about pesticide (and other) issues affecting field workers.
- Read at least one of the background materials, or view one of the videos listed below before the visit. Prepare some questions to ask the speaker.
- Write a letter to a state legislator, U.S. Congressional Representative or Senator raising your concerns and asking for action.

Resource Groups:

- Piñeros y Campesinos Unidos (PCUN), 300 Young St., Woodburn, OR 97071. (503) 982-0243. Web site: <http://www.pcun.org>
- Farmworker Justice Fund, 1111 19th Street, N.W. Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 776-1757. Web site: <http://www.fwjjustice.org/>
- Pesticide Education Center, PO Box 420870, San Francisco, CA 94142-0870. (415) 391-8511. Web site: <http://www.igc.org/pesticides/>

Background Information:

- Fields of Poison: California Farmworkers and Pesticides*. Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA). Web site: <http://www.panna.org/panna/resources/documents/fieldsSum.dv.html>
- Oregon Farmworkers and Pesticides*. Piñeros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN). Web site: <http://www.pcun.org/pesticides.html.htm#anchor1280442>
- Pesticides: Improvements Needed to Ensure the Safety of Farmworkers and Their Children*. US General Accounting Office. 2000. Search GAO's archives at <http://www.access.gpo.gov>
- Kid's Pesticide Levels Unsafe. King, Warren. 2000. *Seattle Times* (April 25). On the Web at: <http://www.enviroweb.org/hecweb/archive/pestfile/kids.htm>
- Harvest of Sorrow, Farmworkers and Pesticides*. Set of four 30-minute videos with accompanying training manuals for educating farm workers about pesticides. Available in English and Spanish.
- The Death of Ramon Gonzales: The Modern Agricultural Dilemma*. Wright, Angus. 1990. Austin: University of Texas Press. 337 pgs.
- The Wrath of Grapes* (15 min. video.) 1986. United Farm Workers of America, PO Box 62 - La Paz, Keene, CA 93531, (805) 822-5571.
- Working with poisons on the farm. Caroline Cox. 1994. *Journal of Pesticide Reform* 14(3):2-5. Available from NCAP, PO Box 1393, Eugene, OR 97440. (541) 344-5044 or on the Web at <http://www.pesticide.org/FARMWORKERS.PDF> or http://www.eap.mcgill.ca/MagRack/JPR/JPR_20.htm
- Troubled Harvest* (27:42 min. video.) 1990. Available from Rainbow Video and Film Production, 2217 Johnson N.W., Portland, OR 97210, (503) 229-0525. [The first third or so of this video deals with pesticide issues. The rest focuses on the life of migrant farm laborers and U.S. immigration policies.]

