

UF/IFAS Extension Hendry County

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Federal Pesticide Laws

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The first regulation of pesticides by the US government occurred in 1910 with passage of the Insecticide Act. The basis of this law was to protect agricultural producers from adulterated or misbranded products. A more encompassing law, the original Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, known as FIFRA, was passed in 1947. Its intent was for the United States Department of Agriculture to register all pesticides prior to their interstate commerce. This law remained in place until 1964, when it was amended to permit refusal of products that were determined to be unsafe or ineffective and their removal from the market.

Since pesticides have become an integral part of controlling pests, a succession of federal and state laws has addressed their changing role and regulation. In 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was formed and was charged with enforcing FIFRA, which was again amended in 1972.

The United States government mainly through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set standards

for pesticide handling and use. A number of formerly recommended good handling practices are now required by law. These include such areas as record keeping, transportation, storage and disposal procedures, reentry intervals, filling and mixing methods, etc. For many applicators these practices are already part of a regular routine. All the new standards are designed to reduce the risks, to both people and the environment.

Goals

- Become familiar with the names and acronyms of the laws and government agencies involved with pesticides.
- Understand the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
- Become familiar with, as well as understand the various laws and regulations (in addition to FIFRA) which apply to pesticide use and pesticide applicators.
- Have a working knowledge of the Worker Protection Standard
- Be aware that new laws and regulations will occur in the future.