

# UF/IFAS Extension Hendry County

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## Environmental Considerations When Applying Pesticides

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Pesticides can be helpful in dealing with pests in our environment such as controlling invasive plant species that threaten native habitats or insects and diseases that attack our crops. Pesticides can pose risks to the environment, especially when they are used improperly. Pesticide use and drift can affect air quality and pesticides in the food chain can threaten wildlife populations. Pesticides are may also be non-point sources of water pollution. As pesticide applicators, it is important to do your job carefully by both controlling pest populations and at the same time protecting the environment from the potential adverse effects of pesticide use.

Weather-wise application can help reduce pesticide hazard to the environment. A wise applicator carefully checks the weather conditions before beginning applications. A few simple precautions can help protect the environment, and save money. Pesticides which do not reach or remain on the target areas are wasted. More pesticide, time, and money must be used to control the pests in the target area.

### Goals of This Module

- Understand the dangers of pesticides in the environment and how to prevent environmental damage.
- Be familiar with how pesticides pollute groundwater and what steps can be taken to prevent it.
- Understand how pesticides persist in the environment.
- Understand the hazards of windy day application and who is legally responsible for mistakes.
- Learn the advantages of early morning or evening application.
- Understand the roles of humidity and temperature inversion in regard to pesticide application.

Do your part to aid the environment. Protect the environment by practicing proper pesticide use.