

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Session VIII

The Agricultural Worker Protection Program

A National Assessment

Background

The agricultural worker protection program provides basic protections for agricultural workers by informing employees about the hazards of pesticides, by protecting them from exposure to pesticides, and by mitigating exposures that might occur. The agricultural worker protection program strengthens safeguards for over three and a half million agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. The program is a high priority for EPA.

The efforts to implement this program have been extensive and have involved the dynamic partnership of EPA, USDA, regions, states and the networks that serve agricultural labor and agricultural producers. However, EPA needs to confirm that there is national consistency in the implementation and enforcement of the regulation at the state level. EPA needs to verify that the available regulatory tools are consistently applied in a manner that allows the Agency to determine if the regulation is achieving its goal.

Assessment Purpose

Assess the national state of implementation and enforcement of the agricultural worker protection program to determine if the program is moving towards achieving its goal.

Assessment Process

Determine the current state of the national program and strategically plan for the future of the program by establishing a worker protection assessment group that will direct and coordinate assessment and planning efforts.

Assessment Group Goals

- assess the current worker protection program status
- generate a consortium of interests that can effect change in the program
- provide a means to foster the partnerships essential to make the program work
- provide a continuing forum to focus and resolve worker protection issues

Assessment Group Membership

Co-Leads: OPP, OECA, Region 3

Members: EPA, USDA, DOL, HHS, State Regulators, State Extension Service, Farm worker groups, agricultural employer associations, farm worker clinicians networks, etc.