

Lesson Number 1

Title: Introduction to Pesticides / Needs Assessment

Purposes / Objectives

- To learn what growers think about pesticides.
- To learn what growers know about pesticides.
- To gather information to use in planning subsequent lessons.

Materials

Required

- Paper
- Pencils

Optional

- Pesticide Containers (empty and rinsed, clean)

Methods

Ask growers to tell what they know (and what they think) about pesticides, using the question set below. We want to find out not only what they know about pesticides, but also what opinions they have about them. Add questions if/as appropriate. Take notes, and/or ask one of the growers to record the responses of the group. If growers give incomplete or incorrect answers to some a fact-based question:

- ask more questions to direct/lead them, or
- state that the misunderstood topic will be the subject of a follow-up lesson.

Do the same thing if all responses to an opinion/value assessment question are “one-sided.”

Results / Data

What is a pest?

- Are all insects pests?
- Are all pests insects?

What is a pesticide?

- Do pesticides always kill pests?
- Do pesticides only kill or control insects?

List the types of pesticides do you use or know about:

Are pesticides the only way to manage pests?

Are pesticides the best way to manage pests?

Name some good things about pesticides? Why are they useful?

Name some bad things about pesticides. Why are they harmful or dangerous?

Discussion

Summarize and review the growers' responses. Be sure all the points they want to make and any questions they ask are recorded.

Conclusion(s)

FFS Leader:

We will talk a little about pesticides each week. Here's why:

Farmers use pesticides. This is because pesticides have benefits. Used properly, they can protect valuable plants and animals from pest damage. However, using pesticides -- poisons -- involves taking risks.

If you:

- use pesticides only when you need them,
- choose the pesticides you use with care, and
- handle them safely by working carefully,

you can take advantage of their benefits with a minimum of risk.

We will talk about not only about pest management but also about pesticide management in the weeks to come.

In FFS, you will learn how to produce healthy crops. Healthy, strong plants are more resistant to pest attacks than weak ones. Using best management practices to grow healthy crops is one way to reduce the need for pesticides.

Also, in FFS, you will learn some ways to protect crops from pests without using chemical pesticides -- for example, by using sticky traps.

In the pesticide management lessons, we will discuss how to reduce the need for pesticides. We will also discuss the effects of different types of pesticides and compare their effects on insects and people. Finally, we will show you how to handle pesticides with a minimum of risk.

Notes