

## **MSU Extension Publication Archive**

Archive copy of publication, do not use for current recommendations. Up-to-date information about many topics can be obtained from your local Extension office.

Producer Response to Chemical Contamination and Unauthorized Activity  
Agriculture Security Series

Michigan State University Extension Service

Adapted by Dean Ross, Michigan State University Extension Regional Dairy Educator  
from Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication 445-004, July 2002, by Joyce Latimer  
and Pat Hipkins

February 2006

2 pages

The PDF file was provided courtesy of the Michigan State University Library

**Scroll down to view the publication.**



## Producer Response to Plant Diseases, Chemical Contamination and Unauthorized Activity

Adapted by Dean Ross, Michigan State University Extension Regional Dairy Educator, from Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication 445-004, July 2002, by Joyce Latimer and Pat Hipkins

Acts of terrorism have heightened our awareness of the need for security, both at home and on the farm or nursery. This publication and the checklist that accompanies it will help you be proactive about farm security.

- Guard against unauthorized access to pesticides and equipment. Identify and report suspicious activity, including unexpected chemical odors in fields, buildings or work areas; unauthorized access to pesticide storage areas or chemical application equipment; and unusual pests (insects, diseases or weeds) or crop symptoms.
- Train your workers to be aware of security as well. Identify the supervisor(s) or manager(s) to be notified if employees find something is amiss.
- Post contact information for the supervisor(s), as well as emergency contact information for fire, police, rescue and poison control in an accessible area near each telephone.
- Take responsibility for your safety and that of your family and your employees. Be alert to early signs of danger. Report incidents to the appropriate authorities. Prompt action will protect human health and may limit damage.

Use the information below to develop a plan for investigating and reporting problems.

### Plant Diseases and Unusual Crop Symptoms

Unusual symptoms in crops may be due to an exotic pest or an unauthorized chemical application. Contact your local Michigan State University Extension office if you detect such a problem. Your MSU Extension educator can help you investigate the crop damage. See your local telephone book for the number of your county Extension office, or visit the Michigan State University Extension Web site at



<<http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/>>. Add the Extension office telephone number to your emergency resource list.

Your Extension educator can assist in collecting plant and soil samples, describing the symptoms and determining the severity of the problem. He or she can submit samples to the Michigan State University Center for Integrated Plant Systems diagnostic laboratory and help interpret test results. Also, the agent can provide contact information for commercial laboratories if subsequent testing is necessary. If you suspect deliberate damage to crops, supplies or farm equipment, notify local law enforcement immediately.

### Chemical Contamination

If you suspect chemical contamination of crops, soil, or other areas and/or materials, contact your local Extension educator and the Michigan Department of Agriculture Pollution/Spills Hot Line: 1-800-405-0101.

This 24-hour hotline should be used for reporting accidental agricultural pesticide, fertilizer and manure spills. In many cases, the contaminated crop or material should be analyzed for pesticide residues. Your local Extension agent can make arrangements for testing. If investigation of a crop or chemical contamination problem determines a breach of security has occurred, contact your local law enforcement agency. If there is any potential for the suspected chemical contamination to reach surface or groundwater, call the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality immediately. Chemical spills not agriculture-related should be referred to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS) at 1-800-292-4706.

---

## Unauthorized Activity

If you observe unauthorized activity, call your local law enforcement agency immediately. Also call right away to report missing pesticides or pesticide application equipment.

## Develop Your Own Plan

- Identify critical personnel to be notified of suspicious activities or symptoms.
- Plan for a backup person. Encourage employees to report problems to these contacts.

- Develop a manager's list of contacts for emergency response. This list should include the names and/or telephone numbers for the local law enforcement agency, fire department, emergency medical services, emergency services coordinator, poison control office, county Extension educator and the regional Michigan Department of Agriculture office.

To avoid terrorist activities on your farm or nursery, or use of your chemicals or equipment against others, take responsibility for their safe storage and security. You are the first line of defense.



MSU is an affirmative-action equal-opportunity institution. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status. ■ Issued in furtherance of Extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 20, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Thomas Coon, Extension director, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824. ■ This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. This bulletin becomes public property upon publication and may be printed verbatim with credit to MSU. Reprinting cannot be used to endorse or advertise a