

Worker Protection Standard (WPS)

Training, recordkeeping, and
resources

What is WPS?

- Federal standard for protecting agricultural workers and pesticide handlers from pesticide exposure on the job
- Establishes employer's obligations to his/her employees
- Administered by U.S. EPA and Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture
- Implemented in 1993; revised in 2015
- Complex; has many provisions

When does WPS apply?

- Registered pesticides (both RUP and GUP) applied for the purpose of producing agricultural plants on an agricultural establishment
 - Includes agronomic crops, nurseries, sod farms, vineyards, orchards, etc.
- Includes both field and greenhouse production
- WPS applies when:
 - Pesticide has been applied on establishment within last 30 days, and/or
 - Pesticide REI has been in effect on establishment within last 30 days

When does WPS *not* apply?

- WPS does **not** cover pesticides applications:
 - On pastures/rangeland not harvested for hay
 - On livestock or their dwellings
 - For control of vertebrate pests (e.g., rodents) unless directly related to ag production
 - On home gardens/greenhouses
 - On plants already planted for ornamental use
 - On harvested portions of plants (e.g., grain fumigation, lumber treatments)
 - For research with unregistered pesticides

Who is covered by WPS?

- **Agricultural employer:** Owns, or is responsible for the management of, an agricultural establishment. Employs workers/handlers
- **Agricultural workers:** Perform tasks related to production or harvest of agricultural plants
 - Pruning, roguing, detasseling, scouting, etc.
- **Pesticide handlers:**
 - Mix, load, transfer, or apply pesticides
 - Dispose of pesticides or their containers
 - Act as flaggers during applications or otherwise assist
 - Have direct contact with concentrated pesticides or tank mixes (e.g., adjusting application equipment)

Workers and handlers need WPS training

- Must be trained annually
- Must be trained using EPA-approved training material
- Training must be in a language that trainees understand*
- Trainer must:
 - Be a licensed pesticide applicator, or
 - Be an extension educator, or
 - Complete an EPA-approved train-the-trainer program
- **Worker training ≠ Handler training**
- Employer must keep records of WPS-trained employees for 2 years
- Exempt from annual training requirement: licensed pesticide applicators

Where can UNL students/personnel get WPS training?

1. Visit <https://campus.extension.org/>
2. Log in or create an account
3. Search courses: “Nebraska WPS”
4. Click “Enroll me”
5. Watch the appropriate training video (worker or handler)
6. Complete the “Integrity Statement”
7. Certificate of Completion: click “Get Certificate”
8. Certificate is emailed to user
9. Create records with employer

Employer must keep records

Required info for records:

- Employer's name
- Trainer's name and qualification
- Date of training
- Trainee's printed name and signature
- Training approval #

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UNL eXtension course:

- Supervisor's name
- Jennifer Weisbrod, Extension Educator
- Worker training: EPA Worker PST 00028
- Handler training: EPA Handler PST 00031

Employer must keep records

- <https://pested.unl.edu/recordkeeping>

WPS Training Verification Record

Employer name: _____ Farm name: _____
Trainer name: _____ Trainer certification number: _____

Year of training	EPA approval # for WPS worker training material used	EPA approval # for WPS handler training material used

The undersigned agrees that he/she has attended WPS training which was presented in a language that he/she understands and that his/her questions were answered.

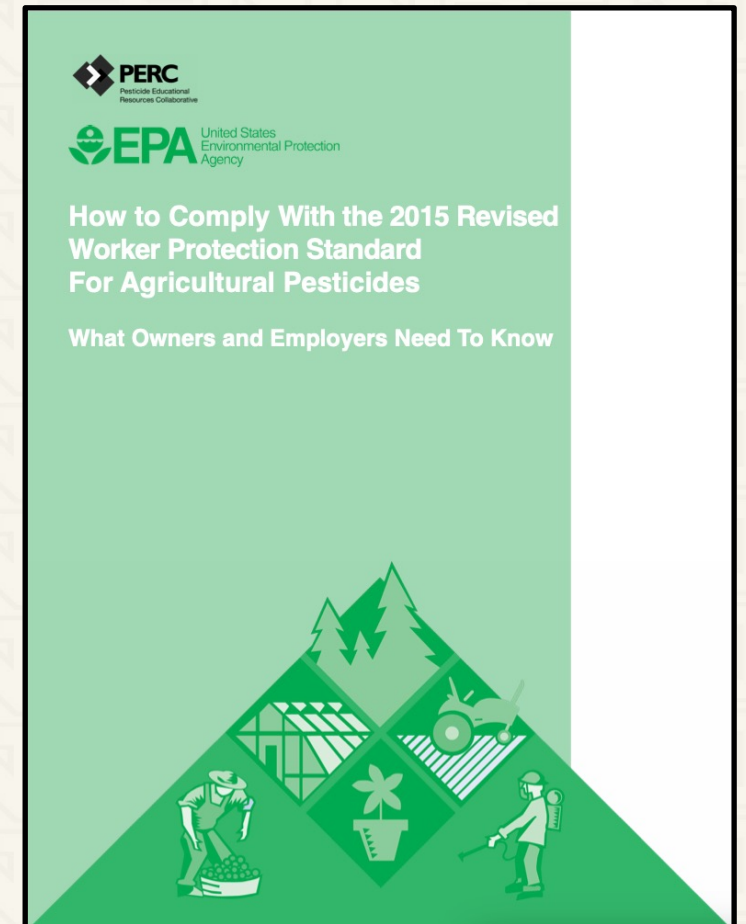
Employee name (print)	Employee signature	Has received training in the following area(s) (write date of training)	
		Worker	Handler

[Agricultural workers and handlers are entitled to reasonable protection from pesticide exposure. Review employer responsibilities at any time on EPA's website.]



WPS resources

- EC3006 – UNL Extension publication
- How to Comply Manual – comprehensive resource
- WPS Handbook for Agricultural Employers
- PERC website (www.pesticideresources.org)
 - Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative
- Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture



Questions?

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