■ PESTICIDE LAWS

TERMS:

Certification and Licensing — In general, no one may apply any pesticide for hire without being licensed and certified as a commercial applicator by the state. Likewise, farm operators may not apply or supervise the application of restricted pesticides in connection with agricultural production on their farms without being certified as private applicators. Certification requires, in part, that the applicant demonstrate competence to apply pesticides safely and effectively. For commercial applicators, competence is determined on the basis of written examination, while private agricultural pesticide users normally may be certified either through training or by examination.

Pesticide Storage — Pesticides must be stored according to label instructions and in such a way that labels are not damaged or destroyed. Storage areas generally must be secure against entry by children or the general public.

Pesticide Disposal — No one may dispose of pesticides or pesticide containers in a manner contrary to the directions on the product's label, or in a way that could create a hazard to humans, property, fish or wildlife. Except in connection with professional recycling, it is illegal to re-use pesticide containers for any purpose.

Pesticide Drift — No one may use a pesticide in a way that results in pesticide over-spray or drift.

Pre-Harvest Intervals — It is illegal for a farm operator to harvest a crop from the site of a pesticide application during the pre-harvest interval specified for that crop on the pesticide label.

Application Equipment — Use of pesticide application equipment that is clogged, unclean or in disrepair, or that cannot be properly calibrated, is prohibited.

Warning Signs — In a situation where (1) an agricultural pesticide label requires both posted and oral warnings before the product is applied, and (2) the application site is within 300 feet of a migrant labor camp, residence, school, playground or similar facility where people are likely to be present during the restricted-entry interval specified on the pesticide label, either the pesticide applicator or the owner or operator of the property targeted by the application must post warning signs that meet the requirements prescribed in the regulations.

Prohibited Acts — Among many other violations of the state pesticide laws, it is unlawful for anyone to:

(1) Detach, alter, deface or destroy any part of a pesticide label, or alter the contents of a pesticide container.

(2) Use any restricted pesticide contrary to label directions or other federal or state restrictions.

(3) Use or supervise the use of pesticides without required certification, licensing or supervision.

(4) Fail to maintain required records or make required reports.

ENFORCEMENT: *Bureau of Agrichemical Management, Division of Agricultural Resource Management, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Madison, Wisconsin 53708 (608-224-4545).*