

WITH SCHOOLS AND HOMES BEING BUILT IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS, THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATING WITH NEIGHBORS HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.



Avoid pesticide drift: Have a plan!

WE HAVE been fortunate in Florida to have very few pesticide drift incidents, as confirmed by a recent statewide survey of schools. The goal of Good Neighbor Practices is to open communication between school personnel and nearby growers in an effort to avoid exposure of staff and children in the rare event of pesticide drift.

Having a plan that includes open lines of communication can help schools and neighboring growers work together to protect each other's interests.



Where do I go if there is a drift incident?

CALL:

Poison Control (800-222-1222)

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (386-418-5523)

BE SURE TO FOLLOW GUIDELINES SET BY YOUR COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD.



We are with you every step of the way

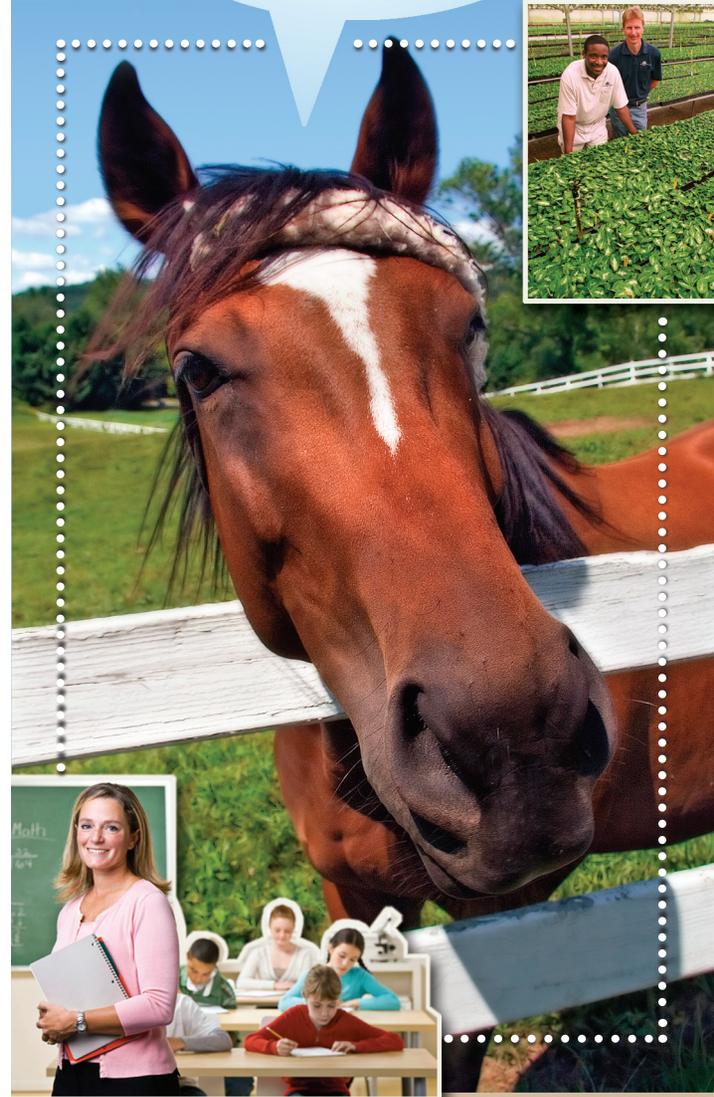
UF/IFAS has Extension Offices in each of Florida's 67 counties. Twelve Research and Education Centers (RECs), Research and Demonstration Sites (RDSs), and several other offices are located throughout the state.

If you need help making a communication plan or getting to know your neighbors a great place to start is your local County Extension Office. With an office located in every county, it has never been easier to partner with the University of Florida and your local County Government. To find an office near you please visit <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/>.

Contact us at 352-273-3971 or on the web at www.schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu.



IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AMONG SCHOOLS AND NEIGHBORS



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Looking for a place to start?

Make this your first goal: Notify agricultural operations the time of day or special events when children will be outside — and more subject to potential exposure to drift, should it occur.

IF DRIFT HAPPENS, HAVE A PLAN!

Principals

Know who to call in the neighborhood and in the district. Keep the numbers handy. If you suspect drift, direct children and staff away from the affected area.

1. Be familiar with and follow district procedures and emergency contacts.
2. Let your neighbor know that you suspect chemical is drifting onto school property.
3. Obtain the name(s) of the chemical(s) being applied and if possible, copies of the labels and MSDS.

Teachers

If you are looking for a way to diversify your curriculum, think about adding material on Florida Agriculture. Even if you are not neighbors with an agricultural operation, you can increase your students' knowledge of agriculture and promote Good Neighbor Practices.

↳ Lessons & Resource Material
<http://www.flagintheclassroom.com/>

Maintenance Personnel

You may not think that maintenance of school grounds could impact your neighbors but it is important to communicate with neighbors who are agricultural producers, organic farmers, or those who may require notification of pesticide applications. Remember that communication goes both ways.



Good Neighbor Practices

Start talking! Let your neighbors know about your interest in working together. Welcome their input. Tell them about regular schedules and special events on your school campus to help them make informed choices about farm chemical applications near your school grounds.

A recent survey of Florida schools identified four top methods for communication with neighbors: neighborhood newsletters, using the school marquee, phone calls with neighbors, and using the local news.

LET US INTRODUCE OURSELVES!



Developing GNPs

Whether pesticide drift is confirmed or not, drift complaints can consume valuable resources and time.

We believe that the most difficult and urgent cases of drift mitigation will occur where buffers are not practical, hence our strategy to develop Good Neighbor Practices.

Good Neighbor Practices should go hand-in-hand with your School Integrated Pest Management program.



WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

