Keeping Plants Protected

Right Place, Right Time, Right Amount
From pests to disease, crops are in constant need of protection. How, not why, farmers preserve their fields safely, precisely and responsibly is important.

Diversification
- There’s no single solution when it comes to crop protection.
- Pesticides are one tool farmers can use to complement other plant protection practices.
- Tillage, crop rotation, and proper timing of planting, are common and effective practices that farmers use to help control pests and weeds.

Precision
- Pesticides work best when used in the right place, at the right time and in the right amount.
- Pest and weed levels change every season, so farmers adapt to use only what’s necessary.
- Modern tools like GPS guidance on sprayers and site-specific nozzles help farmers use only as much as needed.

Training/Certification
- Most farmers regularly complete pesticide training and certification as required by their state.
- State Pesticide Safety Education Programs (PSEP) provide information on the safe, precise and effective use of pesticides.
- Training and certification are done in conjunction with the use of specific labeled instructions that accompany products.

Transparency
- Before pesticides can be sold and used, they have to be reviewed and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Everyone has a right to know about the safety of pesticides.
- Pesticide safety information is available online to keep consumers informed.

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