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USE DRIFTWATCH AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

Keeping records, documenting and/or knowing sensitive areas on DriftWatch on the Internet and utilizing new technology with wind meters are all very good ideas for any pesticide applicator. At the winter pesticide meetings, we talk about these issues when applicators renew their private and commercial applicators licenses. Let's look at these three issues a little closer.

Private applicators of restricted use products (RUP) must keep records by law. In Nebraska, these records must be maintained for three years from the date of application and make them accessible for copying by Department of Agriculture representatives. RUP application records may be handwritten on individual notes or forms, consist of invoices, be computerized, and/or maintained in recordkeeping books. There is a new iPad or smart phone app called "PeRK" written by University of Nebraska Extension experts.

Your records must include: 1) Brand/product name; 2) EPA registration number; 3) Total amount of RUP applied; 4) Crop/site treated; 5) Field location; 6) Acres treated; 7) Application date; 8) Name of certified applicator; and 9) Your certification number. Agricultural commercial applicators have additional requirements when keeping records. That includes the specific name of target pest(s), i.e., insect, weed, or disease, time of application and method of disposal of any unused product.

Even though it is not required, it is a very good idea for private applicators to record time of application and both private and commercial applicators to record windspeed and wind direction. You never know when then these issues become important.

Notice that in agriculture, private applicators do not have to keep records on general use products. Examples of general use products would be 2,4-D and glyphosate applications. The commercial lawn care industry is different. Applicators for lawns, even with general use products, must have a commercial license and keep records on all applications when getting paid for that service.

Wind speed can be easily recorded with a device we demonstrate at the winter meetings. These are called Kestral wind meters. The Kestral 1000 typically sells for \$74. That's the device Paul Hay and I aim at each other and say where is the most hot wind coming from! You can find this easy to use wind meter on the Internet for purchase. Wind direction can be easily recorded using a compass. A \$7.00 compass can document the degrees the wind direction was out of the day of application.

And finally utilize the DriftWatch website. Do you know where there are sensitive areas in and around Saline County including beehives, vineyards, organic fields and other sensitive areas where we need to really be on our toes and not cause any problems for these people? You never want to drift Banvel or 2,4-D or Tordon towards a vineyard, it does a lot of harm. You never want to spray an insecticide unless you notify the nearby bee keeper.



Go to [driftwatch.org](https://ne.driftwatch.org) or directly to <https://ne.driftwatch.org/map> Look at the sensitive areas near your farm operation. Farmers Cooperative and professional commercial applicators should have these areas posted and “red flagged” for management purposes. There may be others locally that need to add their information to this site. The DriftWatch Specialty Crop Site Registry is a voluntary communication tool that enables crop producers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators to work together to protect specialty crops and apiaries through use of the DriftWatch registry mapping program.

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