

Evaluating Environmental Risks with the Windows Pesticide Screening Tool. (A05-pfeiffer162537-Oral)

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Abstract:

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy now mandates site-specific environmental risk analysis and appropriate mitigation for all pest management activities that pose substantial risk to natural resources. Ground and surface waters that are close to pesticide application areas often need special considerations for adequate resource protection. Conservation planners and other farm advisors can use the NRCS Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST) to evaluate site-specific pesticide environmental risk. WIN-PST qualitatively ranks the potential for pesticide transport via leaching below the root zone and runoff beyond the edge of the field. It then combines these exposure potentials with long-term pesticide toxicities to humans and aquatic life. The final results are hazard potentials to humans and fish from non-point source exposure. Working in partnership with other farm advisors, NRCS planners will use WIN-PST to guide producer selection of mitigating conservation practices and management techniques that help protect water quality. The overall goal of the new NRCS policy is to integrate environmentally sound pest management into all conservation plans.

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