



SOUTH DAKOTA SPECIALTY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION POSITION STATEMENT ON PESTICIDE DAMAGE

OVERVIEW

Pesticide damage to non-targeted species and resources has become more prevalent and is negatively affecting organic and non-organic specialty crops, commodity crops, non-targeted plants, people, fish, reptiles, invertebrates, mammals, soil microbes and insects including domesticated and wild bee populations.

South Dakota Specialty Producers Association (SDSPA) realizes the fact that to profitably farm certain crops many farmers in South Dakota feel pesticides are needed and useful if used within their label directions. SDSPA also acknowledges the fact that in some cases pesticides and their properly labeled use can still result in off-target damage.

An increasing number of SDSPA members and non-members have sustained off-target pesticide damage to include loss of organic certification, loss of farming livelihood, and negative health effects.

The SDSPA and its Board of Directors would like to keep an open dialog with all agencies and parties involved with pesticides including federal, state and local entities and assist wherever practical and possible to help minimize off-site pesticide damage.

POSITION STATEMENTS

- All off-site non-targeted pesticide damage to crops and other valuable resources needs to be actively investigated and all pertinent laws strictly enforced by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.
- Investigative reports need to be completed in a way that will assist in compensating damaged parties where warranted and possible, minimize future damage and is transparent to the public.
- Provide better education for landowners as to what to document if pesticide damaged is suspected, how to report a damage incident, legal rights, and post incident options.
- Provide more education and training for all pesticide applicators where possible. To accomplish this all agencies currently involved in these endeavors will needed to take an active role.
- All pertinent pesticide damage information collected by the South Department of Agriculture, through their investigations needs to be fully and freely disclosed to anyone upon request.
- A law needs to be enacted making it mandatory that all commercial pesticide applicators applying pesticides in South Dakota have insurance that will compensate damaged parties and resources.

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