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The following is a description of videos and training manuals (available in English and Spanish) produced by the Pesticide Education Center to teach farm workers about the dangers and health effects of pesticides.

Harvest of Sorrow, Farm Workers and Pesticides: Part I: Fieldworkers (Video and Manual)

In the video, farm workers and their families tell their own stories of pesticide-related health problems, such as serious poisoning, death, childhood cancer, birth defects, and brain damage. The video describes how pesticides enter the body, the symptoms of poisoning, ways to minimize exposure, and includes interviews with union leaders, physicians, and a lawyer advocating changes in pesticide laws and usage needed to protect farm workers.

The training manual is a well-illustrated 70 page guide that uses a clear and easily understandable question and answer format to expand upon health issues and other important concerns of farm workers and their families addressed in the video. There are chapters on acute and chronic toxicity, minimizing exposure, blood tests, what to do in case of illness, posting of signs, and laws and regulations. Appendices include EPA and California re-entry intervals, and lists of farm worker unions, rural legal aid offices, clinics, and poison control centers throughout the country.

Harvest of Sorrow, Farm Workers and Pesticides: Part II: Mixers, Loaders, and Applicators (Video and Manual)

In the video, farm workers from California, Texas, and Florida who mix, load, and apply pesticides relate their own experiences, focusing especially on serious poisoning, cancer, and brain damage. The video discusses the EPA toxicity categories, the pesticide label and other sources of information available to farm workers. The workers describe the lack of proper protective clothing and equipment required by law, and unsafe conditions in the agricultural workplace. A worker demonstrates the proper use of masks, gloves, and protective clothing.

The 144 page manual expands upon the subjects covered in the video, while providing a permanent reference source for workers. Chapters offer clear, in-depth explanations of different formulations and application methods, and how they affect exposure; inert ingredients; median lethal dose (LD50) and the EPA toxicity classification; pesticide labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS); personal protective equipment; heat stress; medical and blood tests. Extensive appendices include lists of pesticides known or suspected to cause cancer or birth defects; EPA and California restricted use pesticides; toxicity classification and LD50 for many pesticides; re-entry intervals; sample labels and MSDSs. Like its fieldworker counterpart, the manual uses a question and answer format with abundant illustrations.

(See Other Side for Order Form)