

Proper Seed & Fertilizer Handling: PPE & Environmental Considerations

Why It Matters:

Seeds and fertilizers contain chemicals that can cause skin irritation, respiratory issues, and environmental harm if not handled properly.

Key Safety Points:

- Wear PPE: gloves, long sleeves, and eye protection-to prevent skin and eye exposure.
- Use respirators or masks when handling dusty or powdered fertilizers.
- Store fertilizers and treated seeds away from water sources to prevent contamination.
- Always wash hands and change clothing after handling chemicals.
- Follow application guidelines to avoid overuse, which can harm crops and nearby ecosystems.

Real-Life Risks:

- Farmers have suffered chemical burns from improperly handled fertilizer.
- Runoff from excessive fertilizer use has led to water pollution issues in Wisconsin.

Discussion Questions:

- What PPE do you use when handling fertilizers and treated seeds?
- How can we reduce fertilizer runoff on our farm?