

Collaboration Rooted in Safety

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) and County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) have the most comprehensive state and local regulatory partnership in the nation due to the size and diversity of California agriculture.

California's CACs are the primary local enforcement agents for pesticide laws and regulations in the state. CACs enforce state laws and regulations that cover **environmental protection, pest prevention, worker and consumer protection, and other special services.**

Examples of the kind of work CACs do

Farmers must obtain **site-specific permits** from their CAC to buy or use many agricultural chemicals.

The commissioner assesses **whether it can be used safely near sensitive areas** such as schools, wetlands, residential neighborhoods, and organic farms.

CACs ensure that applicators take precautions to **protect people and the environment.**

How CACs regulate pesticides:

- When issuing a permit, a commissioner must **consider the need for a particular pesticide and whether a safer pesticide or better method of application could be used and still prove effective.**
- CACs regulate pesticide use to **prevent misapplication or drift**, and possible impact to people or the environment.
- CAC staffs enforce regulations to **protect ground and surface water from the impact of pesticides.**
- CACs perform routine inspections and are the first in line to investigate pesticide incidents. **All reported pesticide related incidents are investigated by the commissioner** in the county in which the illness occurred.

