



# **Pesticide Misuse Investigations**

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**Drift , Overspray and Misuse**



# **Our Objectives**

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**To collect facts (evidence) in an unbiased manner.**

**Innocent until proven guilty.**



# Quick Glance

- ∞ 100 - 150 PMI's per year
- ∞ 50% - no violations noted
- ∞ Opens door to complete evaluation of commercial application business practices.
  - Recordkeeping
  - Pre and post application information
  - WPS compliance (agricultural)



# Drift or Overspray ?

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- ⌚ Did drift or overspray occur? Yes or no?
- ⌚ The degree to which either occurred is typically not the key objective.



# Collecting the Facts

- ∩ Water, wipe, soil and vegetation samples
- ∩ Laboratory analysis
- ∩ Photographs
- ∩ Maps
- ∩ Affidavits, written statements
- ∩ Weather data
- ∩ Label review



# Investigation Example

- ⌚ A drift complaint.
- ⌚ Pesticide allegedly drifted from a cornfield onto a vineyard.
- ⌚ Application was pre-emerge to corn ground.
- ⌚ Complainant noted symptoms of cupping and curling on grape vines.
- ⌚ Symptoms were more evident near corn field.

# The Scene of the Alleged Crime



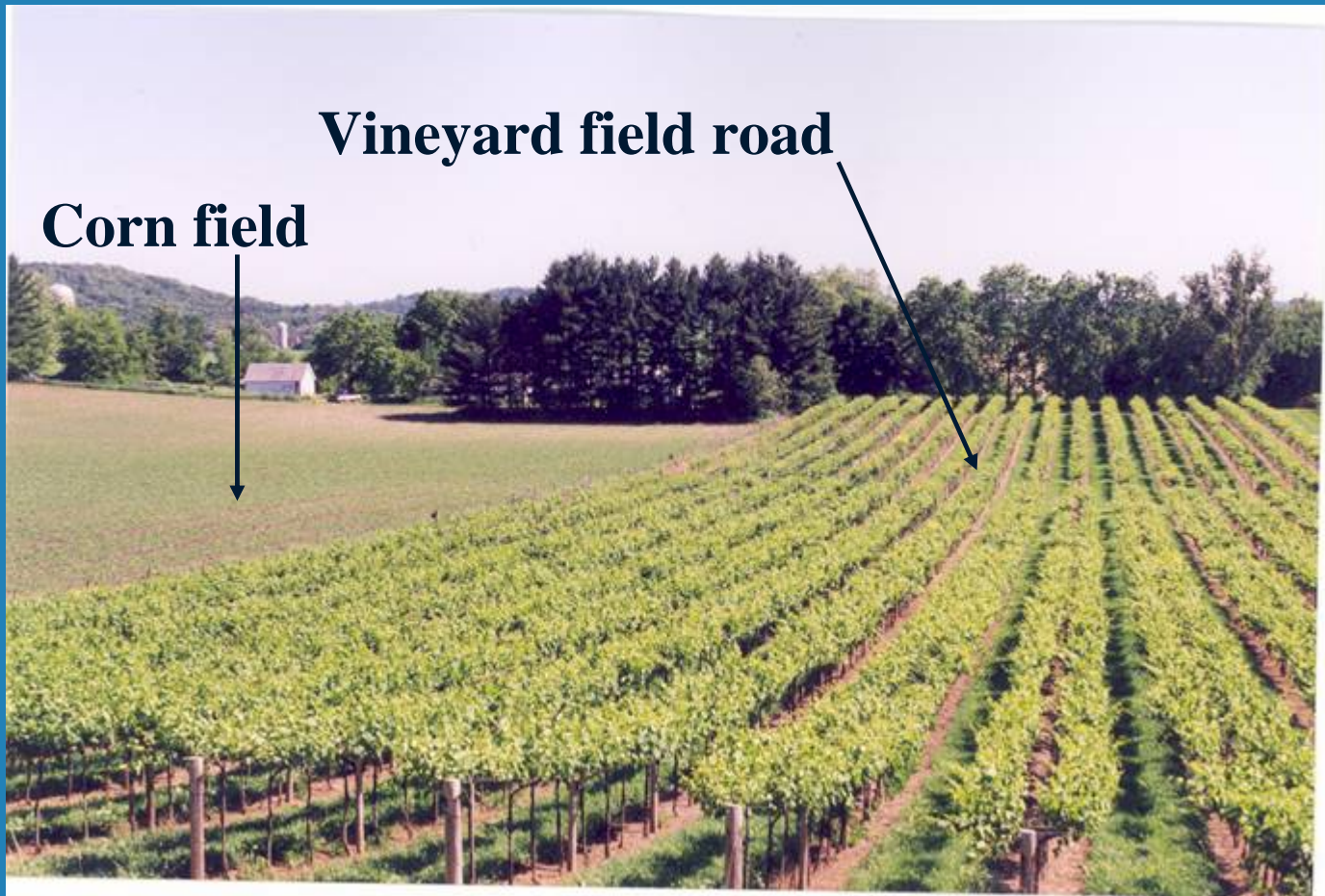


# Collecting Background Samples





# Pesticides Applied to Cornfield



# View from Cornfield





# Collecting Off Target Vegetation & Soil Samples



# Vegetation Sample





# Off Target Soil Sample



# Off Target Samples





# Target Site Soil Sample



## A photograph of a plant specimen, likely a vine with large, lobed green leaves and a small cluster of green buds or fruit, resting on an open notebook. The notebook has several tabs labeled 'STEP 5', 'SPILLS', 'FIELD', 'NET', and 'BLOOD'. The plant is positioned across the open pages, with its leaves and stem clearly visible. The background is a dense, green, leafy area, possibly a forest floor or garden. The lighting is bright, casting shadows of the plant and the notebook onto the ground.



# Physical Symptoms



# Physical Symptoms





# Investigation Results

- ⌚ No evidence of pesticide drift from application to the adjacent corn field.
- ⌚ Pesticide label violation.
  - Tank mixture of Hornet, Harness and Bladex 90 DF applied to corn.
  - Hornet label states "Do not tank mix Hornet with Bladex."