



The
**Co-operative
Difference**



Agrichemicals and Preventing Cow Access

What is the risk?

When spraying pasture or crops it's important to be aware of the potential risk to the health of your animals and the potential contamination of the milk your cows produce.

The risk of pesticide or herbicide contamination going through the milk supply chain could be severe. The financial implication of supplying non-compliant milk can be significant for the farmer and the Co-operative.

Contaminated milk may require disposal of milk, or worse, impact final product. Any situations where agrichemicals are not used as per label or when withholding periods are not followed pose a risk to your milk supply and a risk to our Food Safety Quality standards.

Ensure spray records are kept up to date:

- Record the date of application for each agrichemical.
- Keep a record of the paddocks or crops that have been sprayed.
- Log the chemicals used and the rate applied.
- Record all relevant withhold periods, and;
- The date when paddocks are safe to graze again.



What should farmers do if they suspect cows have grazed a paddock sprayed with agrichemical?

- In the event that cows graze a sprayed-out paddock under a milk withholding period or you have concerns that there is a potential food safety concern due to agrichemicals, immediately secure your vat with an approved vat lock.
- Immediately contact Fonterra on 0800 65 65 68, to complete a risk assessment.
- Fonterra has experts in this field that can help understand the risks to your cows, the milk supply and can arrange testing for your milk on-farm if necessary.
- You may be liable for any loss or costs to the Co-operative for failing to supply milk that meets the Terms of Supply.

What else can be done to prevent accidental grazing of sprayed paddocks?

- Inform all staff of the non-grazing withholding period
 - Notes in the Dairy Diary Practices and Procedures
 - Grazing Planner
 - Staffroom Cups on/off whiteboard and;
 - Mobile phones
- Appropriately identify sprayed paddocks to regularly remind staff to keep stock out e.g.
- Ensure fences are suitable to prevent stock from entering sprayed paddocks.

What support is available?

You can find Agrichemical Spray stickers for your paddocks and gateways at your local Farm Source Store.

A printable paddock sign is available from the Farm Source website [here](#).

A Primary ITO Food Safety Stage 1 course is recommended for staff. This course will help ensure the best agrichemical practice is followed – protecting the farmer, the staff, the animals, the environment and Fonterra’s reputation as a trusted source of dairy nutrition.

For any other questions contact us on 0800 65 65 68.

