

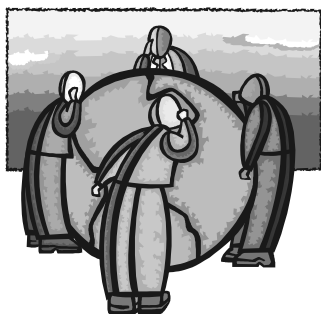


AGRICULTURAL HEALTH STUDY

NC OFFICE • BATTELLE • CENTERS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH & EVALUATION
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www.aghealth.org

Farmers and their spouses in North Carolina are contributing valuable information to the scientific community!



If you filled out questionnaires at a pesticide recertification class at your local county extension office between 1994 and 1996, you have contributed to the Agricultural Health Study in ways that can improve agricultural health—and prevent disease—in our nation and around the world.

Researchers are studying the data collected in the original enrollment questionnaires and have published a number of scientific papers on a wide range of topics, including accidental injury, respiratory symptoms, and retinal degeneration. Brief overviews of these findings and others can be found on the Agricultural Health Study website, www.aghealth.org.

Why is North Carolina so important?

North Carolina was selected for the study because of the great diversity of its agriculture in terms of production methods, commodities, and products. Scientists at the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health join your North Carolina study staff in Durham in thanking you and in asking for your continued support and active participation. **Thank You!**

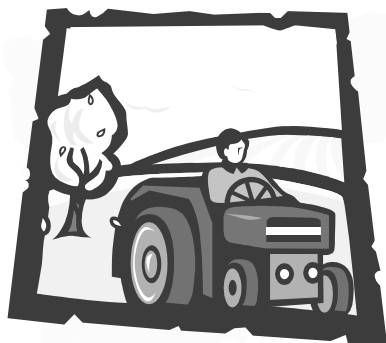


Improving agricultural health through research...

Because scientists observe that farmers, in general, are healthier and live longer than the rest of the general population, it is especially troubling to also observe that farmers may have higher rates of certain diseases, including certain cancers. We expect the first cancer studies to be published in 2003.

The Agricultural Health Study was designed to learn more about the incidence of these diseases so that farmers, their families, and future generations might be protected.

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The Agricultural Health Study is a long-term study to investigate the effects of environmental, occupational, dietary, and genetic factors on the health of the agricultural population. This study will provide information that agricultural workers can use in making decisions about their health and the health of their families. The study is conducted in North Carolina by Battelle Centers for Public Health Research and Evaluation and in Iowa by the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Iowa. **The study is directed by the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Environmental Health, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.**

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AGRICULTURAL HEALTH STUDY

Page 2

How many people are participating in the Agricultural Health Study?



In North Carolina, there are 31,094 participants, and they live in every corner of the state. Two-thirds of these are registered private pesticide applicators; roughly one-third are spouses. Keeping in touch with participants of the Agricultural Health Study is important, so interviewers are making calls to update information.

Some participants will continue to farm; others may retire or change occupation. Some may move, divorce, or experience other lifestyle changes. No matter what, every person who was originally enrolled is vitally important to the study. In fact, no one can be replaced, and no one can be added.
You're IMPORTANT!



New sub-studies and collaborative studies are underway...

Since the Agricultural Health Study is a long-term study, more work is underway to investigate preliminary findings. Researchers are now conducting special sub-studies and collaborative studies to learn more.

- The Agricultural Health Study is collaborating with the Parkinson's Institute of California to learn more about the causes of Parkinson's disease. A number of North Carolina households are assisting the Parkinson's Institute in the **Farming and Movement Evaluation Study** by taking part in home visits and neurological examinations to collect important information for study. The study will compare two groups of selected participants—those who have the disease and others who do not. The opportunity to study the relationships between certain exposures and Parkinson's disease makes the Agricultural Health Study important to the research community. Thank you to those households that are participating in this **collaborative study**.
- Other studies are being conducted with some of the participants of the Agricultural Health Study to determine the actual experiences applicators have in day-to-day mixing, loading, and applying pesticides. So far, 24 North Carolina households have helped the **Pesticide Exposure Study** and 28 North Carolina households have helped the **Orchard Fungicide Exposure Study** conduct these extensive, specialized studies on their farms. These **sub-studies** make the Agricultural Health Study data more meaningful for everyone. Thank You!



All participation in the Agricultural Health Study is voluntary. Names or other identifiers are held confidential and are not released without the consent of study participants. Anyone selected to take part in collaborative studies or sub-studies will be contacted for consent. If you would like further information, please contact the Agricultural Health Study at **1-800-4AG-STUDY**.

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