VCSU SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURES:
Pesticide Handling and Application

**VCSU requires employees who use fertilizer and pesticides to become certified pesticide applicators.**

The EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) for agricultural pesticides became effect on April 15, 1994. This standard requires certification to apply any fertilizer, weed chemical, or other chemicals to lawns, parks, and athletic fields. ND Health Department requires record keeping of spraying and chemicals used, and has strict safety guidelines.

The book, "THE WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD FOR AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES - HOW TO COMPLY. WHAT EMPLOYERS NEED TO KNOW" [http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/htc.html](http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/htc.html) contains more detailed information on the WPS requirements and explains the exemptions that may apply to your or your operation. The final source of Worker Protection Standard information is the pesticide label and the information provided is the maximum WPS requirement.

The WPS affects only products that bear revised WPS labeling. All products covered by the WPS must bear WPS labeling when sold or distributed by anyone. Check the pesticide label to determine if the pesticide is covered by the WPS Standard.

Products covered by the WPS will contain a section in the Directions for Use portion of the label that has the heading “Agricultural Use Requirements”. Under the Agricultural Use Requirements heading will be directions to comply with WPS, and its requirements for training, decontamination, notification, and emergency assistance to employees, restricted entry intervals, and personal protective equipment instructions.

It is a violation of Federal law to use this type of product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.