• Physical movement of a pesticide (solid, liquid, vapor) through the air from the target site to any off target site (vs. overspray at site)
• Can settle in waterways, homes, schools, lawns, etc.
• Can injure crops, people, animals, beneficials
Know Conditions and Risks

- **Weather**
  - Sensitive areas
  - Sprayer
  - Likelihood of drift
- **Pesticide factors**
- **Consequences of drift**
- Scouting and monitoring (IPM)
- **Flexible IPM Program** provides options
- Buffer zones
Drift Factors

- **Droplet/Particle size**: Smaller the size, greater the drift. Use largest droplet. Dusts more prone.
- **Wind speed**, **air stability**, **inversions**
- **Temperature** and **humidity**: Rate of droplet evaporation. If it evaporates before it reaches pest then no control.
- **Height of nozzle**: Too high, more drift
- **Nozzle type**, **orientation** and size-determines droplet size.
- **Pressure**: Higher the pressure, the smaller the droplet.
Avoid drift

- Lowest practical spray pressure
- **Nozzles** with larger openings or narrower spray angles or able to apply closer to target
- Increase spray rates (more gal/per acre)
- Drift-reduction agents
- Avoid high **temp**, low **humidity**, high **wind** (consider early morning or evening application)
- Avoid **inversions** (air cooler near soil and warm air forms a cap)
- Avoid spraying just before **rain** can lead to runoff.