

Lantmännen's plant protection policy

For the sustainable use of chemical plant protection products

Approved by Group management on 2009-06-09

Version 1.0

Responsible for focus area: Business Area Manager Lantbruk
Responsible for Coordination: Head of Sustainable development

Introduction

Lantmännen takes responsibility from farmland to table. An important part of this acceptance of responsibility is that we, as a player in the market for plant protection products, should contribute to the development of sustainable plant protection methods as part of our work on sustainable cultivation.

Plant protection means protecting cultivated crops against diseases, pests and competition from weeds. This can be done using chemical, physiological, biological or mechanical methods. Examples of other factors that contribute to effective plant protection include crop rotation, cropping systems, cultivation techniques, forecasts, and the development and choice of varieties. This is a prerequisite for the profitable production of safe food.

Lantmännen's work on sustainable plant protection always comply with the legal requirement, rules and regulations and are based on three factors that need to be satisfied:

Ecological	Protection of waterways, soil and ecosystems
Financial:	Profitability and yields
Social:	Health and food safety

Lantmännen's development, know-how and advice about plant protection has a great bearing on people's trust in our food products. Correctly used plant protection reduces the risks of ill-health and environmental pollution, and lays the foundations for our growers to carry out profitable plant production on their farms.

Policy

Reducing the ecological risks

Safe handling of chemical plant protection products

Lantmännen will act to encourage growers to use the equipment and technology needed to avoid residues in the environment. Key aspects of this are transport, replenishment, spraying, cleaning and waste handling. Thus, it may be possible to eliminate spillage during handling and spraying. Lantmännen offers modern spraying equipment, testing and repairs to existing equipment for spraying plant protection products in an efficient and controlled manner.

Preventive measures

Lantmännen's advice covers crop rotation, cultivation techniques, the development and choice of varieties, forecasts and warning systems geared to minimising the risks to health, as well as the best financial outcomes. Lantmännen seeks to continuously develop the dialogue with its suppliers of plant protection products, and works closely with government bodies in order to influence the development and training for safe plant protection.

Lantmännen shall have safe administrative procedures for safety data sheets, storage, transport, the transfer of products and the recycling of empty packaging. All Lantmännen personnel who handle plant protection shall have received adequate training and delegated responsibility for handling dangerous goods. This minimises the risks when handling plant protection products.

New methods with minimal risk.

Lantmännen is actively researching alternative plant protection methods that do not leave residues in waterways, soil or foods, and do not have other negative effects on the environment or on health. Biological seed disinfectants and steam-based disinfection methods are examples of these efforts.

Conflicts about objectives clarified

When one objective is not achieved while at the same time another is achieved, Lantmännen's advice helps in each case to clarify whether one objective should be given priority over the other.

Improving profitability

Provision of plant protection

Lantmännen shall ensure access to plant protection appropriate to the needs of growers. This shall be done in close cooperation with our suppliers and with official bodies.

Choice of varieties

Lantmännen is working on the development of varieties and the active choice of varieties that reduce the need for chemical pest control.

Trust in products from our growers' fields

In order to maintain trust in the food produced in our growers' fields, Lantmännen shall act to minimise the residues from plant protection products.

Increasing social sustainability

Residues in food and feed

Lantmännen's objective is that the finished product shall not contain residues of chemical plant protection products where Lantmännen has been in a position to influence the grower's production methods and the choice of varieties.



Protection for growers

Lantmännen's growers shall not be exposed to chemical plant protection products. Lantmännen will ensure that information about safety and handling dangerous goods is disseminated to growers. We shall actively market protective equipment.

Additional paragraph: For the Swedish market

The bulk of Lantmännen's sales of chemical plant protection products is on the Swedish market, where the requirements are stricter than in other markets. The result is that Swedish food has very low or zero residues of chemical plant protection products. We strive to maintain and where possible to further safeguard this competitive advantage in the market. This will generate faster growth, greater profitability, and increase the demand for food from Swedish fields. Lantmännen's work on plant protection is aligned with the Swedish Environmental Quality Objectives. Our aim is to reduce the health risks and to contribute towards an acceptable biological diversity both on and outside Sweden's arable land.