

2023 Reporting Update: Responsible Pest Management

This year we worked with our wheat sustainability data partners to calculate cover crop adoption rates by growers across our [sustainable wheat program](#). Consistent with the industry, we define a cover crop as any plant grown between two cash crops for the purpose of protecting bare ground and building soil health. Cover cropping is an important integrated pest management practice because it helps to suppress disease and pest pressures, potentially reducing the need for chemical pesticides in a field.

Among the annual acres enrolled in our wheat sustainability program in crop years 2020-2021, about 10% of land benefited from cover crops, slightly higher than the national average of 5% ([USDA](#)). Additionally, many of our growers plant commercial wheat in the winter, which also protects the soil versus leaving the ground bare from late fall to early spring. Altogether, in crop year 2021, 40% of land enrolled in our sustainable wheat program benefited from one of these two ground cover practices that can contribute to soil health and responsible pest management.

We also collaborate with the [IPM Institute](#) to annually track risks associated with pesticide applications by our contract tomato and potato growers. To do this, we utilize two pesticides rating systems.

First, we utilize the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) signal words ratings¹ (found on pesticide labels) as indicators of potential acute hazards to nearby humans. According to this framework, in crop years 2020-2021, 97% and 93% of pesticide applications in our growers' tomato and potato fields, respectively, avoided use of pesticides classified as most hazardous to nearby humans.

Second, we utilize the University of California's Bee Precaution pesticides ratings as indicators of potential hazards to nearby pollinators. According to this framework, in crop years 2020-21, 67% and 80% of pesticide applications in tomato and potato fields, respectively, avoided use of pesticides classified as highly hazardous to nearby pollinators. As illustrated in the "[Minimizing Pesticide Drift](#)" story in our 2022 Corporate Responsibility Report, Campbell continues to promote pollinator protection in partnership with our growers.

¹ EPA signal words are an indication of the acute toxicity of pesticides to nearby humans (i.e., to pesticide applicators, other farm workers, or bystanders), through different routes of exposure (oral, dermal, and inhalation during and immediately after pesticide applications) and are not designed to assess potential hazards to consumers of ingredients. We require our suppliers to follow the standards for pesticide use set by the EPA and state regulatory agencies. More information on pesticides and food safety can be found on the [EPA's website](#).