



“Farmer Frank”

As an after school job, you work at the local hardware store and garden center. The store sells lawn fertilizers and pesticides. Many farmers in the area buy pesticides from your boss, Frank. There is one gentleman that comes into the store every few weeks and deals only with your boss. He buys a truckload of pesticides from the store. Files are kept in the store office to keep track of how much pesticides are purchased each year. This man’s file does not list many of the chemicals that he buys. You over hear him talking to your boss about business and the farmer says that he has had a good year and the pesticides are selling fast.

- Why is pesticide use such a controversial topic?

Students should be able to identify the conflict between controlling pest populations and the harm of toxic chemicals in the environment. They should discuss the target of pesticides, the way that pesticides persist in the environment, and how the chemicals are passed through the food chain. They may use DDT as an example.

- What law may your boss and the farmers be violating?

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

- Who should you contact about what is happening at work?

The Department of Agriculture