



## How Can You Get Involved?

Toxic Taters is a grassroots organization that believes that everyone can be a learner, teacher, and leader in our work. We depend on many people contributing their time, skills, and resources.

You can become involved in many ways from writing a letter to the editor, or signing our online petition, to helping at an event, organizing a local meeting, or getting involved in our environmental and human health work. The opportunities are endless. Just contact us and we will work with you to make a connection.

You can also support Toxic Taters with a financial contribution to help us continue our work. We appreciate your support.



## Who We Are:

We are Native and non-Native, grassroots community group that organizes people to advocate for themselves, as a community, to protect our land, air, water, and lives from the poisons spread in Minnesota by corporate giant R.D. Offutt (RDO) through their chemically intensive potato farming.

### Contact Us

Phone: 218-375-2600 or 218-850-3629

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/toxictaters](http://www.facebook.com/toxictaters)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ToxicTaters](http://www.twitter.com/ToxicTaters)

Email: [tatercoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:tatercoordinator@gmail.com)

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Protecting land, air,  
water, and community  
for generations to come



# Minnesotans Not Lovin' Pesticide Drift

## Why Toxic Taters?

Central and Northwestern Minnesota are home to over 50,000 acres of potatoes...

Fungicides are sprayed on 98% of those acres. At the height of the growing season spraying can happen as much as every 5-7 days.

Growers, like the potato giant R.D. Offutt (RDO), are not currently mandated to tell the public what chemicals they are using. What we do know for sure is that not all of the chemicals stay in the potato fields.

Pesticide drift impacts neighboring farms, schools, homes, and communities. The environment is damaged. People get sick and sometimes die from exposure to harmful chemicals.

These are our communities. We believe we can protect our water, soil, and air, while supporting sustainable farming and a strong local economy.

## What is Pesticide Drift?

The EPA defines pesticide drift as the movement of pesticide dust or droplets through the air at the time of application or soon after, to any site other than the area intended.

## What are the Effects of Pesticide Drift?

Short-term impacts: headaches and nausea to chronic impacts like cancer, reproductive harm, and endocrine disruption.

Acute dangers: such as nerve, skin, and eye irritation and damage, headaches, dizziness, nausea, fatigue, and systemic poisoning - can sometimes be dramatic, and even fatal.



## What is the Toxic Taters Working On?

Toxic Taters takes a multi-pronged approach to addressing the problems of pesticide contamination brought into our communities by corporate farmers like RD Offutt. Our work includes:

- Education—Contact us if you'd like a presentation at your organization's next event.
- Research—From studying the public data to doing community air monitoring, we recognize the importance of knowing the facts.
- Sharing the Stories—Many people in our region have been impacted by pesticide drift. It's up to us to share their stories in many ways: in the media, online, and person to person. Have a story to share? Contact us.
- In the Field—Have you been affected by pesticide drift? Toxic Taters can give you the tools to guide you through the reporting process.
- Taking Action—Whether it's speaking up at public meetings, working with legislators, collecting petitions, or even picketing in front of McDonald's (a major buyer of RDO potatoes), Toxic Taters is there to hold RDO accountable for their impacts on our communities.



## What We Are Asking RDO To Do:

1. Cut their use of hazardous pesticides significantly
2. Release information about what chemicals they are applying
3. Fund human and ecological health studies to understand the effects on impacted communities near potato production
4. Use sustainable farming practices, including a third party certifier

