Pesticide Selection and Use

T Identify the pest. Know what you're trying to control.
T Determine whether the pest is doing enough damage to warrant treatment.
T Consider alternative controls. Use pesticides in a program of integrated pest management.
T Identify the various pesticides which are labelled for the site.
T Evaluate the site, field histories and current environmental conditions

T Then, READ THE LABEL and consider:

G **Efficacy**: Is the pesticide effective in controlling the pest? Is there pest resistance?
G **Restricted Use**: If the pesticide is restricted, are you licensed?
G **Water Quality**: Will the pesticide or its use on the site present a hazard to groundwater or surface water?
G **Drift**: Will use of the pesticide present a hazard to near-by crops, livestock or people?
G **Cost/Acre Applied**: Will crop protection benefits justify the cost; is there a lower cost alternative?
G **Time Limits**: Are there re-entry intervals, harvest delays or grazing restrictions which may limit work or marketing the crop?
G **Applicator Hazard**: What personal protection equipment is required? Is the appropriate PPE on hand? Is there an alternative with a lower toxicity class that will do the job?
G **Beneficials**: What is the effect on non-pest organisms like bees and predator insects or spiders?
G **Carry-over or Persistence**: Will soil residues limit crop land use in the future?
G **Application Equipment**: What application equipment is required? If you don't have it, can you get it?
G **Inventory in Storage**: Do you have the pesticide on hand in storage, thus redu-
Formulation: Are suitable formulations available for your equipment, or to reduce chances of crop phytotoxicity?

Container Disposal: Is it sold in bulk returnable tanks or in packaging which may reduce container disposal volume?

Other Considerations: Are there considerations of timeliness, precision or accuracy of application, environmental conditions and compatibility limits in the use of the pesticide? Are there special restrictions such as the aldicarb or phenoxy rules?

Now, READ THE LABEL again. Follow label directions on transportation, storage, use and disposal of pesticides and pesticide containers.