

*The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical News is published by the Chemical Management Branch of the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment*

**Special points of interest:**

- Code for Spraying in Residential and Public Areas
- Atrazine Review Extended
- New Conditions for Use of Endosulfan
- Integrated Pest Management
- Amendments to Control of Use Act Progressing

**Inside this issue:**

Brands and Earmarks Research	2
MPA Scare in Europe	3
Latest EU Review of HGPs	3
Atrazine Review Extended	4
New Endosulfan Conditions	4
Mevinphos Suspension Ends	5
Off-Label Permits	5
Update on Antibacterial Residue Minimisation Program	6
National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS)	6
New Initiative on Grower's Responsibility for Coordinating Spray Programs	7
Blackberry Spraying	7
ChemCollect Update	7
Drumming Up drumMUSTER	8
Spray Drift Management: Principles, Strategies & Supporting Information	9
All Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Businesses to be Accredited	9
Inside "Exercise Minotaur"	10
Crop Protection Approvals	11
Integrated Pest Management	11
Pest Management Training Update	12
Control of Use Amendments Pass Lower house	12

## Spraying in Residential and Public Areas Code of Practice Being Considered

The Codes of Practice for aerial spraying and ground spraying were designed primarily for the agricultural, horticultural and forestry sectors. They provide a set of ground rules for spraying in these industries. However, the Codes are of limited value for spray operators working in our urban and semi-urban areas, where some unique circumstances exist.

A Code of Practice for spraying in residential and public areas is now being considered. Local Councils are pivotal to the development of such a Code, due to their role in controlling weeds along roadsides, streets and many public recreation areas.

In some municipalities, council employees apply herbicides, whereas other councils subcontract the application of chemicals, but oversee the work.

The first step was to contact each council and put the question to them – "Did they see a need for the development of a Code of Practice?" All 13 replies (out of 29) received so far are in favour.

On the basis of this support, a draft code will be developed and circulated to councils and other interested parties, for comments and ideas. It will then be released more broadly, for public comment.

## Methyl Bromide Phase-Out Kicking In

### "Critical Use Exemptions" - Last Chance to Keep Some Uses

Tasmania's methyl bromide users were provided with an opportunity in April this year to apply for "Critical Use Exemptions" to allow some limited continued use of methyl bromide after the 1 January 2005 cutoff. However, Environment Australia has not received any applications from Tasmania. So, presumably there are no critical uses for methyl bromide here and all existing uses will be replaced by other treatment methods within the next two years.

All uses of methyl bromide (other than for quarantine and pre-shipment purposes) are to be phased out in Australia by 1 January 2005, consistent with our obligations under the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer*.

However, Parties to the Protocol recognised that transitional access to methyl bromide after that time may be justified, and in 1997 they adopted a formal decision to allow limited "critical use exemptions" in some rare cases. The decision made it clear that such exemptions would only be granted when several strict criteria are met, including:

1. The failure to provide access would result in a significant market disruption;
2. There are no technically and economically feasible alternatives available to an exemption applicant that are acceptable from environmental and human health standpoints;
3. The applicant has taken all feasible steps to minimise their use of methyl bromide and the associated emissions; and

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

4. Appropriate efforts are being made to evaluate, commercialise and register alternatives to methyl bromide for use by the applicant.

The deadlines for submission of applications for critical use exemptions were 31 July 2002 for pre-plant users of methyl bromide and 23 August 2002 for post-harvest users.

This timeframe was to allow for the applications to be assessed by the Commonwealth Government in late 2002, with the assistance of an expert advisory panel, and then re-formatted by Environment Australia and forwarded on to the Montreal Protocol by 31 January 2003 for consideration and decision later in the same year.

Applicants wishing to submit late applications must first contact Environment Australia's Ozone Protection Section (phone (02) 6274 1457, email [ozone@ea.gov.au](mailto:ozone@ea.gov.au)).

Environment Australia cannot guarantee that late applications will be included in this year's round of submissions to be forwarded on to the Montreal Protocol for decision in 2003.

Depending on the quality of the late applications (for example, whether additional information has to be sought from the applicant) and the timing of its submission, it may be held over un-

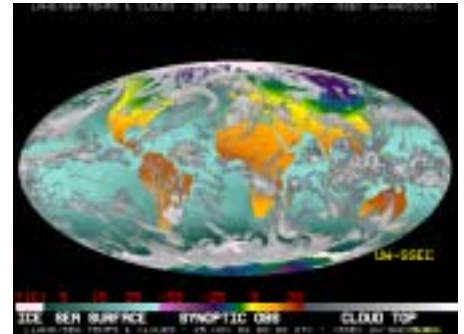
til the next application round is conducted in 2003, for forwarding to the Montreal Protocol for a final decision in 2004.

Rather than seeking applications from each individual user of methyl bromide wanting an exemption from the phase-out, Environment Australia has sought nominations from industry associations and similar focal points for affected sectors.

The Commonwealth's application requirements and assessment process are rigorous. Applicants will be required to provide detailed information to support their requests, including extensive information on the impact of alternatives on crop yields and profit margins, and on efforts undertaken to develop and apply new alternatives.

Stakeholders considering submitting an application for a critical use exemption should contact Environment Australia's Ozone Protection Section, phone (02) 6274 1457, email [ozone@ea.gov.au](mailto:ozone@ea.gov.au)

As applications are sought from industry associations or comparable representative organisations, rather than individual users of methyl bromide, staff of the Ozone Protection Section are also available to discuss the application process in a teleconference with an applicant association's members and other stakeholders involved



“Applicants wishing to submit late applications must first contact Environment Australia's Ozone Protection Section”

## Brands and Earmarks Research



A retired Midland farmer Mr Frank Rigney is currently researching the history of old Midlands farms. His search for historical information on these farms includes finding details of the shape and designs of the original brands and earmarks used on the properties.

The Registrar of Brands and Earmarks, Brian Koerbin, was pleased to be able to assist Mr Rigney to view and tran-

scribe the designs from the Brands and Earmarks Archives, many dating back to the early 1900's and still being used. The finished project will be donated to the Department's Reference Library.



## What Do Pigs, Breweries and the Irish Have in Common?

One answer is that they all had egg (or should that be sugar) on their faces as a result of the MPA (medroxyprogesterone acetate) contamination scare in Europe several months ago.

The discovery of MPA in pigs came about by an investigation into an unexplained infertility problem in Dutch pigs. The MPA entered the pigs in the feed via a convoluted path. An Irish waste disposal company organised for waste water from the sugar coating of pills at a pharmaceutical company to be recycled through a Belgian company. This company reprocessed the waste water into glucose syrup, which it sold to two Dutch feed mills to be used in the manufacture of pig feed. Some of the syrup was apparently also sold to soft drink manufacturers.

Levels of MPA detected in pig meat and soft drink were well below the level that would affect people. However, the finding has again rocked consumer faith in the

integrity of the European food chain. A number of protocols had been broken yet the contamination was discovered mainly by chance. It is also interesting that the MPA ended up in pig feed where it could potentially increase growth rates. The costs of this episode were staggering with over 1800 pig farms potentially affected and included lost production due to infertility, the slaughter of pigs, loss of consumer confidence and litigation.

The incident highlights the need for quality assurance right from the start of the production chain, even where animal feeds are being produced. Cheap raw materials need to be assessed to make sure they meet quality controls before being utilised.

Many of the articles written at the time of the incident made it appear that MPA was used in food animals in Australia as a growth promotant. However, this is not the case. In Australia MPA is only registered for use in cats, dogs and horses for specific



*MPA contamination scare in European pigs*



## Health Impact of HGP's - Latest EU Review

The EU Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures Relating to Public Health (SCVPH) has completed a review of previous studies and recent scientific data in relation to hormonal growth promotants (HGPs). Their main concern is with oestradiol, a component of many HGPs. There is evidence that suggests this naturally occurring hormone can initiate tumours and can cause certain tumours to proliferate. The opinion of the SCVPH is that any increase, no matter how small it may be, in the levels of oestradiol in the diet could increase the risk of cancer.

Studies showed that there were significant increases in the level of oestradiol in the tissues of treated steers (up to 20 times the normal level in fat) at slaughter. They also identified the possibility that multiple dosing or incorrect implantation of HGPs could result in much higher levels of residues entering the food chain. There does not appear to be enough information to draw conclusions on the likely dangers of the other HGPs banned in the EU (testosterone, progesterone, trenbo-

lone acetate, zeranol and melengesterol acetate), but another potential problem is the damage that may be caused with the release of HGPs into the environment. Where cattle are treated with HGPs, in say a feed lot, measurable levels of active metabolites are released into the environment with the faeces. The impact of this on the environment is not known.

The Europeans, following their review, have reaffirmed their belief that the consumption of beef from animals treated with HGPs is a potential health hazard. The removal of significant trade sanctions (in excess of \$100 million US) is riding on their being able to convince the World Trade Organisation that there is a sound scientific basis to their ban on the import of HGP-treated beef. It is hardly surprising therefore that they have reached this conclusion. Unfortunately, at present there are no long-term studies in people that can unequivocally answer this question, so the wrangling may continue for a while yet.





## Reviews



# Atrazine Review Extended

The NRA has extended the period of the review of atrazine to allow for the assessment of newly available studies which appear to associate developmental and reproductive problems and malignant tumours in frogs with exposure to low levels of atrazine.

One such study was conducted in the US by Dr Tyrone Hayes and recently reported in the journal *Nature*. It concluded that "atrazine exposure (=0.1 ppb) resulted in retarded gonadal development (gonadal dysgenesis) and testicular oogenesis (hermaphroditism) in leopard frogs (*Rana pipiens*). Slower developing males even experienced oocyte growth (vitellogenesis). Furthermore, we observed gonadal dysgenesis and hermaphroditism in animals collected from atrazine-contaminated sites across the U.S.

*These coordinated laboratory and field studies revealed the potential biological impact of atrazine contamination in the environment. Combined with reported similar*

*effects in *Xenopus laevis*, the current data raise concern about the effects of atrazine on amphibians in general and the potential role of atrazine and other endocrine disrupting pesticides in amphibian declines."*

However, the study is not without its detractors, who claim inconsistencies in the interpretation of the data. Other scientists claim to see the gonadal abnormalities, but only in frogs exposed to higher levels of atrazine than typical environmental levels found in the US.

The NRA has the job of assessing the new studies to satisfy itself that continued registration and approval of atrazine in Australia would not be likely to have an effect that is harmful to humans and would not be likely to have an unintended effect that is harmful to animals, plants or things or to the environment.

The Authority has referred the new studies and reports to Environment Australia and the Therapeutic Goods Administration for

# New Conditions for Endosulfan Use

Recently the NRA completed an assessment of new residue data provided as part of the review of endosulfan.

The data showed that endosulfan use on Brussels sprouts and certain leafy vegetables may result in endosulfan residues in excess of permitted levels. The current withholding period for pears is also inappropriate.

The data has also showed that if livestock are fed fodders that have been treated with endosulfan, the meat from these animals could potentially exceed Australian and international residue limits.

As a result the NRA has stopped the use of endosulfan on Brussels sprouts and the leafy vegetables including leafy brassicas (excluding broccoli, cauliflower and head cabbage, silver beet, Chinese cabbage, choi sum, all lettuce varieties, cress Japanese

greens (mizuna, Indian mustard), spinach, pak choi and bok choi).

The withholding period for pears has been amended to 28 days and feeding of a range of treated crops to livestock has also been stopped.

The NRA is advising that if livestock have been fed any of the identified crops treated with endosulfan, then those animals should be kept on untreated feed for 90 days before slaughter. Full details of the new restrictions are on the NRA's website ([www.nra.gov.au](http://www.nra.gov.au)) or they can be obtained from the Chemical Management Unit.

Remember that endosulfan is a **Restricted Chemical Product** and it can only be purchased and used by people who hold a Chem-Cert accreditation certificate.

"if livestock are fed fodders that have been treated with endosulfan, the meat from these animals could potentially exceed Australian and international residue limits"

# Mevinphos Suspension Ends but Severe Restrictions Imposed

The National Registration Authority (NRA) has revoked the suspension of mevinphos and varied the conditions of registration and the conditions for approval of its associated label. The final report of the NRA's review is available on the internet at [www.nra.gov.au/chemrev/mvnphsrev.pdf](http://www.nra.gov.au/chemrev/mvnphsrev.pdf)

Supply of the product in Tasmania has been restricted to people who are ChemCert accredited and authorised to use mevinphos on brassica crops through an agricultural spraying permit, issued by the Registrar of Chemical Products.

A number of new instructions have been added to the label of Phosdrin Insecticide - the only registered product containing mevinphos.

Of particular interest are the new label instructions which –

- ⇒ limit the number of sprays allowed per season,
- ⇒ increase the withholding period from 1 to 2 days,
- ⇒ prohibit an individual from handling mevinphos in excess of thirty days in any 12-month period, or applying more than 12 kg of Phosdrin Insecticide on any day, and
- ⇒ prescribe that the product must only be applied using air-conditioned closed cabs, fitted with pesticide filters designed to remove particulate matter and vapours.



*"restricted to people who are ChemCert accredited and authorised to use mevinphos on brassica crops"*



*"must only be applied using air-conditioned closed cabs, fitted with pesticide filters"*

## Off-Label Permits

The following permits recently issued by the NRA should of particular interest to Tasmanian spray contractors and farmers:

**Permit No. 4670** – Use of bifenthrin for Red Legged Earth Mite control in poppies.

**Permit No. 4456** – Use of metalaxyl m, mancozeb and phosphorous acid for Downey Mildew control in poppies.

**Permit No. 4669** – Use of clopyralid for thistle control in poppies.

**Permit No. 3896** – Use of bentazone for broadleaf weed control in green peas. Please note that this permit has been issued only until 31 March 2003 and any further extension of this permit will be dependent on the collection of acceptable residue data.

**If you intend to use a chemical product for a permitted use, you must ensure that you obtain a copy of the permit so that you are aware, first hand, of the approved use pattern and conditions of use.**

Copies of minor use off-label permits are now available on the NRA's website at - [www.nra.gov.au](http://www.nra.gov.au)

Alternatively, details of permits can be found on some commercially available data bases such as INFOPEST or by contacting Mike Norman, Chemicals Coordinator with DPIWE's Chemical Management Branch. Mike can be contacted by telephoning 6233 3565, by faxing 6233 3843 or by emailing [Mike.Norman@dpiwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:Mike.Norman@dpiwe.tas.gov.au)



[www.nra.gov.au](http://www.nra.gov.au)

### Permits of Interest

- bifenthrin – poppies
- metalaxyl m, mancozeb and phosphorous acid - poppies
- clopyralid – poppies
- bentazone – green peas



“Testing over the past 12 months has again demonstrated a high level of awareness of the issue and responsible management by our cattle and dairy producers”

## National Antibacterial Residue Minimisation (NARM) Program Update 2001/2002

Antibiotic residues in beef are tested by two programs in Tasmania that target the stock most likely to contain residues. That is, bobby calves, cull cows and other cattle showing some evidence of possibly being treated with antibiotics. Testing over the past 12 months has again demonstrated a high level of awareness of the issue and responsible management by our cattle and dairy producers. This is reflected in a very low residue detection rate.

antibiotic residue detection in future, the offending property will be quarantined until the possibility of a violation has been eliminated. This process has been in place for a few years now and to date no producer has had to be quarantined.

In addition to the Department's follow-up activities for properties where residues are detected, an ongoing extension program is targeted at dairy farmers, providing advice and information on how to avoid residues occurring. On-farm quality assurance programs by the major dairy companies also play an important role in raising awareness of this issue and reducing the risk that residue violations might occur.



The two cases above the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) have been investigated and the properties have been placed on a "No Second Chance" list. If calves or cattle from these properties are found to have a positive

### Tasmanian Results 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002

Class	Number Tested	MIT Positive	Tissue Positive	>MRL	Antibiotics Found
Calves	2402	3	2	2	Sulphonamides
Adults	51*		4*	1*	Neomycin

\*Includes one animal tested under the AQIS Targeted Antibiotic Residue Testing program.



## National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS)

The NLIS scheme for cattle involves the application of authorised electronic identification devices. Each device carries a unique electronic identification number that is registered with a National Database to a particular property. These devices can then be read electronically at saleyards to update the information on the database concerning the property the cattle are moving to. Electronic identification can also help with on-farm management. The NLIS is underpinned by legislation that specifies how the ID devices can be used and makes unauthorised tampering with, or removal of the devices an offence.

tries from which they import beef.

At the present stage Victoria is the only state in Australia that has a mandatory NLIS system for cattle. This may give them a marketing advantage into countries such as Japan. Many farmers across Australia are already using the NLIS to access markets in Europe or for on-farm management. Legislation in Tasmania is currently being amended so that NLIS identification can be made mandatory –

- in an emergency (ie outbreak of an exotic disease or residue crisis), or
- if made obligatory by a national body (ie. to protect export markets), or
- with the approval of an industry representative body.

If all cattle in Australia had these devices fitted then, provided the recording of the transfer of stock has occurred, the history of the movement of any animal could be quickly established. This would allow rapid control of an outbreak of an exotic disease such as foot and mouth virus and potentially prevent the slaughter of thousands of animals. Countries in the European Union will only import beef from properties where all the cattle are identified so that they can be guaranteed free of HGPs and allow any residue problem to be quickly traced back to its source. The Japanese, as a consequence of BSE, are identifying all of their cattle and may decide to require a similar system for all coun-

There is general agreement across government and industry that a fully implemented NLIS system will be necessary to protect our beef industry. Discussion is now under way to determine a practicable implementation program to achieve this goal. At the present stage Tasmania has not made the NLIS scheme mandatory, preferring to let market forces such as EU market access and Tasmanian Feedlot requirements encourage the voluntary uptake of the scheme.



## New Initiative on Grower's Responsibility for Coordinating Spray Programs

*(Article by David Parsley – Coordinator of the Spray Information & Referral Unit)*

In the past, most efforts in controlling spray drift were concentrated on the spray operator. We have since come to appreciate that the grower plays, or should play a more important role in coordinating spray operations. This is especially true for aerial spraying. Until this happens, problems with drift control and neighbour relations will persist.

The Chemical Management Branch and

the Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group (TAPG) are promoting the message that the crop grower must take his /her responsibilities seriously. A flyer has been developed, which emphasises the things a grower must do in preparing for a crop to be sprayed. The format of the flyer makes it handy to put up in a workshop or office.

The flyer was launched at a media release at Sassafras organised by the TAPG on 23 October. The new publication will be presented to agricultural managers from Simplot, McCains, Glaxo, Tasmanian Alkaloids,



## Blackberry Spraying

For as long as blackberries have been around it has been a tradition for the Tasmanian public to pick blackberries on the roadside and on other accessible bush and farm land. Since the time when herbicides like "good old" 2,4,5-T were used to control blackberries there has been concerns about bushes carrying mature or near mature fruit being sprayed.

As a result of these concerns, a restriction was introduced several decades ago that blackberry bushes carrying mature or near mature fruit must not be sprayed. Most, if not all, the labels for herbicides approved

for blackberry control display this restriction.

It has been suggested that erecting signs warning that bushes have been sprayed is a suitable option, but that is considered to be unreliable and impractical especially along roadsides where blackberries may extend for many kilometres.

The best thing is to get your blackberry spraying done early before the fruit forms or later after the fruit has gone. Check to see which herbicide best suits your spraying program.



## ChemCollect Update

*(Extract from a Report by Pat Deprez, Environment Division – DPIWE)*

The ChemCollect collection phase for Tasmania started in September 2001 on a regional basis and has just been successfully completed with Phase 4 (the last stage) carried out in the Bass Strait Islands in the September /October 2002 period. Prior to starting the program there was a fair deal of preparation work and consultation with key stakeholders. There were no incidents throughout the entire duration of the pro-

gram.

Phase 1 was carried out in the NW Region (Nov-Dec 2001) and yielded the largest quantity of farm chemicals for the program (16,826 kgs).

Phase 2 was held in the North-East Region of the state (9,549 kgs).

Phase 3 in the Southern Region was completed in May – June 2002 (10,530 kgs).

Phase 4 was carried out on Flinders Island in late September and King Island in early Octo-

*(Continued on page 8)*

### ChemCollect Final Results

- The program resulted in 39,191 tonnes of unwanted farm chemicals handed in by farmers.
- The total amount of organochlorines collected was 3,950 tonnes, which represents 10.08 % of the total quantity of chemicals collected.
- The total amount of arsenic based products was 2,584 tonnes (6.59 % of totals).
- The total amount of organophosphates pesticides collected was 27,668 tonnes (70.59 % of totals)
- The total amount of "others" was 4,382 tonnes (11.18 % of totals, which includes 'unknowns')

(Continued from page 7)

ber 2002 (2,285 kgs).

For the Bass Strait Islands, DPIWE undertook an extensive media program that also included articles in the local newspapers and an advertisement. In addition there was a direct mail out of the information brochure on ChemCollect with details about collection times and venues. The ABC Rural program aired an interview about ChemCollect a week prior to the start of Phase 4. Farmers stated on a consistent basis that they listened to the ABC radio's rural programs on a regular basis. Approximately 240 kgs were collected on Flinders Island and 2 tonnes on King Island.

#### Where to next ?

The State and Federal governments will be pursuing the implementation of the industry initiative called ChemClear. This initiative aims to collect agricultural and veterinary

farm products that are out of date or deregistered or off-spec in the future. It aims to avoid the past problems of stockpiling chemicals on farms and being allowed to deteriorate and spill or contaminate the environment and Tasmania's clean and green produce.

DPIWE has approached the TFGA to carry out an independent audit of the ChemCollect Program to gauge how successful it was. There are a number of indicators that have shown the program in Tasmania was very successful.

The Tasmanian environment and our agricultural products are now at a much reduced risk of contamination and exposure to highly toxic chemicals such as the organochlorine pesticides and arsenic. It is now up to the users and manufacturers to ensure that chemicals continue to be properly and safely



## Drumming up Involvement for *drumMUSTER*

(Agsafe Media Release)

Tasmanian farm chemical users who have utilised a *drumMUSTER* collection are to be commended for their commitment to helping the environment, and their support of the *drumMUSTER* program.

*drumMUSTER* is the national program for the collection and recycling of empty, cleaned, non-returnable crop production and on-farm animal health chemical containers. The program is reputedly the single biggest environmental campaign jointly undertaken by farmers/chemical users, local government and the crop production and animal health industries.

*drumMUSTER*'s belief is that the responsible use of chemicals, and waste management initiatives means a cleaner environment for the community as a whole and adds to Australia's clean and green image.

Collex Pty Ltd are processing containers throughout Tasmania and passing the plastic and steel on to manufacturers for recycling. The processors hope to see more farmers throughout Tasmania follow the lead in supporting such a valuable environmental program.

The result of the *drumMUSTER* program is recycled products that the community uses in everyday life including: pipes for drainage and irriga-

tion applications; outdoor furniture; garbage bins; car bodies; vineyard posts; window fittings; trellising; road signage; road barriers; and reinforcement supports in concrete.

*drumMUSTER* collections throughout Australia are increasing, with some participants getting so involved in the program that they are challenging their neighbours to place a wager on who can deliver the cleanest and/or largest number of containers to a *drumMUSTER* collection.

The program notched up a milestone at the end of August 2002 with over 2.7 million empty, clean chemical containers collected nationwide since the program's inception in 1999. This represents over 4500 tonnes of waste saved from landfill or being dumped or burnt. 382 Councils participate in the program, and have run approx 2000 collections nationally. The Councils represent an area equalling 97% of annual drum sales in Australia.

The *drumMUSTER* program around Tasmania is being provided by local government, whose services are reimbursed by the levy paid on containers, at cost. Until the introduction of the *drumMUSTER* program in Australia there has been nowhere to safely and legally dispose of clean, empty eligible crop production and animal health product containers.

"recycled products that the community uses in everyday life including: pipes for drainage and irrigation applications; outdoor furniture; garbage bins; car bodies; vineyard posts; window fittings; trellising; road signage; road barriers; and reinforcement supports in concrete."

## Spray Drift Management: Principles, Strategies and Supporting Information

While we depend on chemicals to increase productivity and the quality of agricultural products, there are potential risks associated with their use that may affect public health, disrupt agricultural trade and impact upon the environment.

This practical guide focuses on managing the risks of spray drift and includes information on appropriate handling practices to ensure a safe workplace. It is designed to assist chemical users and / or individual primary industry sectors to develop spray drift management strategies that are relevant to their particular circumstances.

The book is divided into two parts:

1. **Principles and Strategies** – a set of general principles governing spray drift management as well as strategies related to each of the principles.
2. **Supporting Information** – the scientific and technical information that the strategies are based on. Chemical users or individual primary industry sectors can use this information to provide better understand-

ing of the principles relating to their own situations. This part of the document is also a useful reference for policy makers, particularly in relation to decisions regarding regulatory or other approaches for managing the risks associated with spray drift.

The comprehensive nature of the supporting scientific and technical information may also be used to develop education and training programs to improve the decision making skills of all those involved with chemical spray applications.

Essential reading for landowners, spray contractors and operators, growers, government agencies and consultants involved in the application of agricultural chemicals.

*Spray Drift Management: Principles, Strategies and Supporting Information* is published by **CSIRO PUBLISHING**. Contact details for sales –

Telephone: 1800 645 051  
 Email: publishing.sales@csiro.au  
 Web site: www.publish@csiro.au



**New Publication**



## All Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Businesses to be Accredited

*(Agsafe Media Release)*

Modified authorisation from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) imposes compulsory accreditation for all supply chain businesses storing agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

Agsafe general manager, Mr Sam Ponder commented that all businesses storing agricultural and veterinary chemicals are now required to be accredited, regardless of the quantity stored.

He said, "The reduction of the threshold level will ensure that the public safety benefits of the program can be more fully achieved. "This change establishes Agsafe as the major provider of risk management services for the entire agricultural and vet-

erinary chemical distribution and retail network," commented Mr Ponder.

Currently 1357 agricultural and veterinary chemical businesses are accredited through the program and with the new authorisation this should increase to 1500 by around June 2003. "The authorisation remains sensitive to smaller businesses with lower regulatory requirements, resulting in a two tiered accreditation approach.

"Agsafe will work closely with new businesses affected by the change, helping them to achieve compliance with all state and federal regulations, at an affordable cost," concluded Mr Ponder.



Premises accreditation is a program whereby Agsafe monitors premises for compliance against the criteria outlined in the Agsafe Industry Standard for the Safe Transport, Handling and Storage for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals. The Industry Standard brings together relevant detail of regulatory obligation and safety management requirements.



## Inside "EXERCISE MINOTAUR" Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) Preparedness in Tasmania

(by Dawn Latham, Licensing Coordinator – Chemical Management Branch)

Since the outbreak of FMD in the United Kingdom and the situation in Europe and Japan with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), national government recognition and recommendations were made from the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on enhancing preparedness. The national focus was with a whole-of-government approach to manage technical aspects of disease control, community issues and recovery stages after an outbreak with special emphasis on the effects of trade, tourism and the well-being of those most affected.

The 3 main objectives are:

- To be able to mount a whole-of-government coordinated response to successfully manage an FMD outbreak, in partnership with industry, the community and other governments
- To be able to meet national obligations with regard to emergency diseases and pest preparedness.
- To develop a robust system to successfully respond to agricultural emergencies.

### *Why have an FMD exercise in Tasmania?*

To hold a full-scale simulation to test Australia's national arrangements for managing post-border aspects (preparedness, response and recovery). Australia and Tasmania have a detailed plan for the technical aspects for control of an exotic disease incursion. Current activities were aimed at enhancing this response by ensuring adequate resourcing and training are in place to implement these plans, improving coordination across States and looking at the broader community issues.

### **Inside the State Disease Control Headquarters (SDCHQ) – "Exercise Minotaur" – September 2002.**

The objectives of "Exercise Minotaur" was an integration of national arrangements on:

- Administration
- Capacity and capability of resources
- Logistics
- Communication
- Disease Control policies and strategies
- Trade management
- Relief and recovery strategies.

The majority of 109 staff involved in their various roles of this exercise had no idea what was going to occur or when. Various skills and expertise were utilised to manage Tasmania's response to an outbreak of FMD and at the end of the exercise everyone was both exhausted and relieved.

General comments from staff were that they were glad they had participated in the exercise. Although they felt they were floundering to begin with, their skills, knowledge and the availability of information helped them greatly to not only appreciate what would transpire in a real life situation but also identified those areas that would require improvement. Twenty one discussion points emanated from Tasmania's experience of Minotaur. These included suggested changes in the areas of Policy, Whole of Government decision making, Communications, Plans, Training, State Disease Control Headquarters and Critical Incident Management.

Although the simulated outbreaks of FMD occurred in Queensland, NSW and Victoria, Tasmania's systems to manage essential tracing, surveillance and communication activities were well tested along with the whole-of-government capacity to manage the effects of closed export markets for an initial period of 84 days.

## Brands & Earmarks July-September 2002

### **Cattle tag orders authorised**

203	HGP-FREE transaction tags
151	Bobby calf transaction ear tags
65	Electronic identification devices

### **Brands & Earmarks transferred/registered**

27	Sheep/cattle earmarks
4	Horse brands
3	Pig brands

### **EU ACCREDITATIONS**

4	Properties relinquished
3	New properties accredited
317	EU properties accredited to 30 September 2002

- Dawn Latham and Brian Koerbin from the Chemical Management Branch were part of the team involved in testing Tasmania's preparedness to handle an outbreak of Foot – and – Mouth Disease (FMD), as part of the National FMD exercise.
- The nerve centre at The State Disease Control Head Quarters located in the Hobart Marine Board was kept very busy during the simulation.
- It was a very good opportunity to witness the roles of key players who would be involved in a real life outbreak.



## Crop Protection Approvals

(Text for this article was supplied by Crop Protection Approvals Ltd)

Producers of many horticultural and agricultural crops frequently find that they have limited chemical products available that they can legally apply to their crops for pest, weed and disease control. The limited range of crop protection products registered for use is attributed to a number of factors including the low acreage of many crops.

Manufacturers of agricultural chemicals face high costs in generating and collating data to register products with the National Registration Authority (NRA) before their products can be sold or used. Frequently, there is insufficient economic return for agrochemical companies to bear the high costs of registration in these smaller markets.

Crop Protection Approvals Ltd (CPA) is a company that was set up in 1999 by the vegetable industries of Australia to provide producers with solutions to this very problem. CPA is a grower-owned company, initially funded by Ausveg, the peak body for the vegetable industries, Horticulture Australia Ltd (HAL), the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and Avcare.

CPA assists growers to gain access to a wider range of crop protection products by obtaining off-label permits and full label registrations for the use of agrochemicals in their industry.

Off-label permits can be obtained from the NRA for uses of agrochemicals in some instances. Off-label permits legalise the use of products for minor uses for purposes not specified on the product label.

CPA liaises with the NRA to determine the infor-



mation that needs to be submitted to obtain a permit or registration. In many cases, field trials need to be conducted to produce data in support of applications to the NRA. CPA has a research division called CPA Research Pty Ltd, that designs and manages field trials to generate data in support of permit and registration applications.

Since becoming established, CPA has been working mainly for the vegetable industries that provided the initial financial support. However, CPA's services are now available to all agricultural and horticultural industries. For further information contact Jennifer Hall at CPA on Ph. (03) 8371 0001, email [jhall@cpaltd.com.au](mailto:jhall@cpaltd.com.au) or visit the CPA website <[www.cpaltd.com.au](http://www.cpaltd.com.au)>.

## Integrated Pest Management

By Andrew Bishop, Vegetable and Associated Industries Branch

If you think Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is simply about using less chemicals on your crops for the environment's benefit then think again. Sure, IPM is all about environmentally protective pest management practices, but it is also equally about economic and social sustainability of growing food. Developing and implementing Integrated Pest Management systems as part of your cropping enterprise has the potential to save you dollars, improve your lot as a producer of food, as well enabling you to do your bit for the natural environment that supports you and your enterprises.

An analogy often used when describing IPM is the toolbox of tools that the IPM-aware farmer uses to manage the pest problems on their farm. This is not a literal toolbox, but it is a range of different management techniques that are used in the development and construction of IPM strategies. The target is to maximise the number of specialist tools available, determine their applications and capabilities, and use them in a combined manner to construct the most effective and sustainable pest management system.

Broadly speaking a good IPM strategy requires:

### Awareness/Prevention

An effective IPM system requires you to be aware of the likely pests that may impact

your enterprise and to know what actions are needed to prevent the establishment of these pests in your crop. Some preventative approaches include; crop rotation, farm hygiene and resistant varieties.

### Crop monitoring

Often referred to as scouting, this is a critical component of a successful IPM strategy. Scouting is not a one-off look at your crop. To be effective, simple techniques of scouting should be employed that enable accurate assessment of the pest threat to your crop. The information obtained from scouting your crops is critical for making pest management decisions.

### Informed decision making

Using the information you have gathered on the pest's characteristics and populations in field, you can make an informed decision as how to control it. Whereas, in the past, the paddock may have been sprayed 'just in case' with an expensive pesticide. You may be able to reduce pesticide application or use an alternative based on the information you have collected.

### Identification and use of appropriate tools

There is a wide range of 'tools' that farmers can use to manage pests. These tools can be categorised as follows:

**Chemical:** These include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and nematicides.

**Mechanical:** This has particular application to weed management eg hand hoeing, brush-

weeder and the finger tyne cultivator. Overuse of this tool could result in erosion and soil damage as well as increased labour and fuel use. When used in balance with other techniques it has great benefits.

**Cultural:** This includes approaches such as rotating the crop. Also, the use of biodiverse headlands and fencelines that encourage the establishment and breeding of beneficial organisms such as predatory insects.

**Biological:** Biological control is an effective way to manage specific pests. The release of introduced biocontrol agents requires extensive research and testing that may take many years, and is subject to a stringent regulatory system. The other form of biological control is the use of beneficial insects that may predate on the pest.

### On going assessment of strategy effectiveness

An integrated approach to pest management needs constant assessment and evaluation. Was the combined collection of techniques used appropriate, and more importantly successful, in preventing or minimising damage to your crop? Are there opportunities to fine-tune this approach? Document everything you do and more importantly why you did it. This latter point assists you in improving the design of your strategy in future, and the information could prove useful if you are participating in some type of quality assurance or accreditation scheme.

For further information on any of the articles featured, contact -

Chemical Management Branch  
PO Box 44  
HOBART TAS 7001  
Ph. 6233 6825  
Fax 6233 3843  
Chemical.Enquiries@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

## Pest Management Training Update



The first intake of training for Pest Management Technicians has

successfully been conducted through TAFE Natural Resources. Roy Baker, teacher/assessor along with Peter French have delivered the training in both theory and practical sessions.

Eleven people enrolled and out of those eleven, seven have been assessed, with four of those successfully applying for a Pest Management Licence to operate a business.

There are another 7-8 people currently finishing their training through external studies.

Several recent Pest Management Technicians who actually had done their training via correspondence with Phil Hadlington also enrolled for the practical session of the course and found it to be very valuable and worthwhile, especially as they also were commencing new businesses in the Pest Management industry.

The training will continue for 2003 and is open to licensed pest management technicians wishing to update their knowledge or anyone wishing to get into this line of work.

We would like to wish Peter French, Pest Management Assessor with TAFE and also a Pest Management Technician with Hawes Pest Control (he appeared in our last edition of "Chemical News") a "speedy recovery" from an injury he received a few months ago. TAFE are missing his valuable skills so let's hope Peter is back on deck soon.

For Pest Management Technician training and enrolment details please contact Roy Baker at TAFE Tasmania on 03 62337950, mobile 0438 452 778 or email - [bakerr@tafe.tas.edu.au](mailto:bakerr@tafe.tas.edu.au)

## Control of Use Amendments Pass Lower House



Amendments to the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995 were passed by the House of Assembly on 26 November 2002.

The amendments deal with prescribing by veterinary surgeons and off-label use of agricultural chemical products and were agreed by each of the three parties in the Lower House.

When passed by the Legislative Council, the amendments will give the Minister the power to make orders to prohibit or

regulate the prescription of veterinary chemical products. They will also limit the supply of veterinary chemical products by pharmaceutical chemists to those situations where the chemists are acting in accordance with the instructions of a veterinary surgeon.

A number of off-label uses of agricultural chemical products will be allowed as a right. A permit will no longer be required when an agricultural chemical product is used -

- at a lower concentration than advised on the label,
- at a lower rate of application than advised on the label,
- at a lower frequency than advised on the label or

- on a crop identified on the label to treat a pest or disease that is not identified on the label.

The Legislative Council is not expected to review the amendments until the autumn session of Parliament next year. So, it will be a few months yet before the amendments can become law.

A further amendment made in the Lower House will give the Minister the power to make orders to regulate the sale or supply of used chemical products, such as chemical sales at clearance sales and auctions.