

## Questions and Answers from the December 2008 Grower Workshop

### Reading the Pesticide Label and Drift Control Strategies

Alex McVicker, Agricultural Biologist

Q: How effective are drift retardants?

A: We believe drift retardants can be effective. Check with your pesticide dealer to help you select an appropriate drift retardant based on the specific pesticides you are using. If you having sensitive sites near you, we recommend you give them a try.

Q: At what wind speed do we stop a pesticide application?

A: Generally, we will stop a pesticide application when or if we believe the conditions for making the application will result in pesticide(s) going off it's intended target. Wind speed that reaches ten miles per hour can be a general guideline, but other factors must be considered, such as sensitive sites near by, fieldworkers working in an adjacent field, inversion layers, and temperature. If you are near a sensitive site, you may need to shut down prior to a wind speed of ten miles per hour. You may want to stop your pesticide application during an inversion or when there is no wind because these conditions favor the movement of pesticide droplets off target in concentrated amounts. We recommend you use good judgment when deciding when you or your employee should stop a pesticide application.

Q: Where can we buy instruments to measure wind speed?

A: We recommend you check on line. Local pesticide dealers should be able to help you locate a supplier if you do not have access to the Internet.

Q: What is the current status on the respiratory regulations and fit testing?

A: The required California Department of Pesticide Regulation respiratory regulations are OSHA compliant. The expanded respiratory program and the requirement to have a program administrator were new last year. Employees must be trained before they use a respirator for pesticide use. The voluntary exemption only applies if a respirator is not required on the pesticide label. If respirator use is voluntary, and the employer provides the respirator, you will need a respiratory program. These regulations are very complicated and are a big change. Please call our office for help.

Q: Why do we need to write the manufacturer down on the Production Agriculture Pesticide Use Report when we know the manufacturer from the Environmental Protection Agency registration number? It seems redundant.

A: The information is required by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. The intent is to make sure the product is actually the product applied. The EPA number, product name, and the manufacturer name are checks to help verify the individual product.

Q: What tractor speed is best during a pesticide application?

A: There are many variables that affect what tractor speed you will drive. If you notice your pesticides start to drift off site, immediately stop and adjust your speed and equipment. Please use good judgment.

### Recycling of Plastic Pesticide Containers, Drip tubing, and Other Items.

Pete Albers, Agricultural Biologist

Q: Do we need to cut off the lid portion of a bucket?

A: Yes. Remove the lid and place it into the trash.

Q: Can a lid be recycled in a waste management company blue container at the curb?

A: We do not think so. Not all plastics are recyclable. Please call the ECO Desk 707-565-3375 for more information.

Q: Where do we recycle plastic tubing?

A: It depends on the type of plastic. You may be able to place it in the blue container. Please call the Eco Desk 707-565-3375 for more information.

### Managing Those Pesky Turkeys

Dan Curtin, Agricultural Biologist

Q: Has anybody complained about geese?

A: Some Canadian Geese do not migrate and can be a nuisance. Call the United States Fish and Wildlife Services for a depredation permit if they become a problem. They can be reached at (503) 872-2715.

Q: Is a shell cracker covered by the firearm ordinance?

A: Yes.

Q: Does the turkey have a natural predator?

A: Yes. They have several natural predators such as the bobcat, coyote, mountain lion, fox, and birds of prey.

### Electronic Pesticide Use Reporting Through our Website

Cree Morgan, Agricultural Biologist

Q: After we print a Pesticide Use Report from your website can we save it in a file?

A: Yes. You can save into a PDF or Excel.

Q: Can you submit Ladybug through your website?

A: The new version of Ladybug will submit to us seamlessly. Sureharvest, Agrian, and CDMS will also work. The old version of Ladybug will submit to us, but you have to go through several steps.

Q: Can this process generate Application Specific Information to fulfill posting requirements?

A: No.

Q: When can we use this system to submit Pesticide Use Reports?

A: Wait until the end of this month (December 2008).

Q: Can you enter a Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Report on the website?

A: Yes.

Q: Can this program filter and prepare a summary of pesticide use reports for an entire year?

A: It can show pesticide use for the whole year. We are not sure of the filtering capability since it is a new system.