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August 25, 2006

Dr. Teung F. Chin
Office of Pest Management Policy
USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
4700 River Road, Unit 149 (Room 5A66)
Riverdale, MD 20737-1237

RE: Aldicarb Use on Sweet Potatoes in California

Dear Teung,

This letter is in response to your August 24, 2006, request for information concerning the use of aldicarb on sweet potatoes. Specifically, you requested the following information:

1. Acreage
2. Percent crop treated
3. Typical rate
4. Is aldicarb being used? If not, what are the alternatives are being used for which pest?

There has been no use of Aldicarb on sweet potatoes in CA during the past 3 years.

In 2004, there were 10,849 acres of sweet potatoes in CA.

In 2001, 4 applications were made to a total of 98 acres. This represents 1.32% of the acres. The rate applied was 3.00 lb ai/ac. In 2000, 2 applications were made to a total of 50 acres. This represents 0.56% of the acres. The rate applied was 3.00 lb ai/ac.

This small amount of aldicarb was used for nematode control. The two years of usage were somewhat experimental to see how well aldicarb would work. The pest control advisor who made these recommendations has either moved out of the area or discontinued the recommendations. Hence, no use has occurred since 2002. A major roadblock to aldicarb use is the 120 day PHI. Sweet potatoes are a 90-120 day crop.

Telone (1,3-Dichloropropene) is the fumigant of choice for nematode control. Approximately 65% of the sweet potato acres were treated with Telone in 2004. Metam sodium accounts for

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another 10% of the acres. The use of metam sodium will probably increase, while Telone treatments decrease due to limitations on the number of acres allowed to be treated with Telone.

I understand from Scott Stoddard, UC Farm Advisor, Merced County, CA, that Colwell Cook left a message asking for this information. Much of the above information came from my conversation with Scott, so he will not be returning Colwell's call.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Melnicoe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Rick Melnicoe
Director, Western IPM Center

cc Scott Stoddard
 Colwell Cook