

Malathion Information Request
From Office of Pest Management Policy, Received Jan 19, 2012
Response from the Arid Southwest IPM Network
February 13, 2012

Information Request:

OPMP would appreciate help in seeking opinions from US researchers/extension professionals on the importance of malathion for the control of biting flies in the public health and/or veterinary health sectors, in response to the EPA requiring the registrant, Cheminova, to provide efficacy data to support these uses.

Regards,
David Epstein, Ph.D.
Entomologist, USDA Office of Pest Management Policy

Process:

Al Fournier of the Arizona Pest Management Center requested information from Extension specialists and veterinarian scientists in AZ, CA, NM and NV, and also made contact with mosquito abatement program personnel in Arizona. We did not get a timely response from all states.

Comments

Arizona:

Dr. Kirk Smith with Maricopa County Environmental Services Vector Control in Phoenix, AZ manages the largest mosquito abatement program in Arizona. He indicated that malathion was previously used as adulticide for mosquito control but that its use has been discontinued. In part because of resistance issues, including cross-resistance with permethrin, malathion was recently replaced with a reduced risk active ingredient, etofenprox. This provides good control.

Dr. Dawn Gouge of University of Arizona indicated the availability of reduced-risk options for control of biting flies and was not aware of a situation where malathion would be needed.

Dr. John Smith, Dairy Extension Specialist and professor with University of Arizona checked with contacts at the United Dairyman of Arizona, who indicated that “not much” malathion is being sold through their supply organization.

California:

I checked with the California Department of Public Health to be sure about use by Vector Control Agencies, and learned that malathion is still used (under 24(c) exemption I believe) for mosquito control by some agencies. However, the use of malathion appears limited and is decreasing annually replaced by other products as you will read in the document. I do know that malathion can still be prescribed by physicians for control of resistant head lice in humans (another 24(c) exemption). It is my understanding that neither cattle nor poultry industries use malathion products much (if at all) for control of flies or ectoparasites anymore. There were,

until a few years ago, malathion products for use to control lice on poultry, but I understand that these are no longer registered (at least in California).

**-- Dr. Alec C. Gerry, Associate Veterinary Entomologist and CE Specialist,
Department of Entomology University of California Riverside, CA 92521**

Dr. Gerry provided a copy of the following article, which includes data on malathion use for public health protection from 2004 – 2007. He also attached another article that he developed with John Maas at UC Davis in 2011 listing the products available for fly management to beef cattle. Malathion is not mentioned in this.

Howard, T.S., M.G. Novak, V.L. Kramer And L.R. Bronson. 2010. Public Health Pesticide Use in California: a Comparative Summary. Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association, 26(3):349–353, 2010.

Maas, J. 2011. U.C. Davis Vet Views: Beef Cattle Fly Control In 2010. California Cattleman's Magazine, March 2010.