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MĀNOA

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Room 3871 – South Bldg., Mail Stop 0315
Washington, DC 20250

Subject: **Malathion** use to control biting flies important for public and livestock health — Hawai'i and the American Pacific

The following comments are being submitted in response to the email inquiry of January 19, 2012 regarding the importance of malathion for the control of biting flies in the public health and veterinary health sectors. These comments are being submitted on behalf of the Western Integrated Pest Management Center.

1. Public Health Sector

The Hawai'i State Department of Health, Vector Control Branch used malathion most recently in 2009 as a larvicide against mosquitoes for control of dengue fever. At this time, the Vector Control Branch is essentially without field staff. Therefore, no monitoring or control activities are being conducted. There are no plans to use malathion in the event of a future outbreak of dengue or a disease which is similarly transmitted.

The other islands of the American Pacific have a much smaller assortment of pesticide chemicals which are available for them to use for any purpose. Malathion is available and is used for public health purposes on Guam and American Samoa. American Samoa reports that fly control is not common.

2. Livestock/Veterinary Sector

For livestock and veterinary applications, malathion is not being used in Hawai'i; no products for this use are currently licensed for sale in the state. If products for this use against biting flies were to become available again, local livestock producers may change their current practices and resume use of malathion, if it is competitively priced.

Note: Malathion is named in the *Administrative Rules* of the state of Hawai'i, as part of the preshipment entry requirements for cattle, sheep and goats being imported into the state. These animals must be accompanied by a health certificate which documents that the animals have been dipped or completely sprayed by malathion “or any other APHIS-approved pesticide”. In recent years, pesticides other than malathion have been used for this purpose.

Rainy periods in Hawai'i can cause large increases in populations of biting flies in Hawai'i. These large fly populations can be especially problematic around poultry and livestock operations. Malathion has been used as a spot treatment to knockdown these flare-ups, but other treatments are also used.

As mentioned above, the other islands of the American Pacific have very few alternative pest controls available. For many years, malathion has been the only affordable, effective, broad spectrum insecticide that has been consistently available. Biting flies can present problems in Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands. The Northern Marianas reported little use of malathion for fly control, despite the prevalence of these pests. In American Samoa, fly control was also not reported to be a common activity, but, if it were to become necessary to apply control tactics for flies, malathion would be an important tool. Veterinary uses, which would be important for malathion in American Samoa, are for livestock (swine) and pets (dogs). There are really no alternatives in American Samoa for the veterinary uses of malathion.

Guam has only a little livestock production, but they have many species of biting flies including mosquitoes, sand flies, black flies, horse flies, and face flies. And more are expected to arrive. Two new species--a black fly and an *Anopheles* mosquito which transmits malaria--were collected on Guam last year. On Guam, malathion is important to livestock producers and for use on horses.

Information was submitted by a livestock supply vendor in Hawai'i and Hawai'i Department of Health Vector Control personnel and Cooperative Extension personnel in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and Hawai'i.

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