Reponse to Information on Tetrachlorvinphos: Use of WP and Dust Formulations in the Pacific Northwest

Date: May 12, 2005

To: Kent L. Smith, Ph.D.
Plant Pathologist
Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP)
Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

To: Rick Melnicoe
Director, Western Integrated Pest Management Center

From: Jane M. Thomas
Pacific Northwest Coalition Comment Coordinator

Attached please find our response to your request for information on the use of tetrachlorvinphos in the Pacific Northwest.
~ Jane

Dust and Paint Use of Tetrachlorvinphos in the Pacific Northwest (PDF* 32K)

Jane M. Thomas
Pacific Northwest Coalition Comment Coordinator
Pesticide Notification Network Coordinator
Pest Management Resource Service
Washington State University Tri-Cities
2710 University Drive
Richland, WA 99354
Telephone: (509) 372-7493
Fax: (509) 372-7491
Request for Information on Tetrachlorvinphos: Use of WP and Dust Formulations

Date: May 2, 2005

To: Rick Melnicoe
Director, Western Integrated Pest Management Center

Dear IPM Center Directors,

EPA is finalizing the RED on tetrachlorvinphos (TCVP). They are considering a minor use critical exemption for the wettable powder paint and dust formulations on poultry and livestock for insect control. Use patterns of most WP and EC formulations of TCVP will remain intact.

EPA lacks the necessary information to rule favorably on this request. Hence, they have asked us at USDA, or more properly the IPM Centers to fill the void in their knowledge.

Questions:

1. Is there any current use of the Dust or WP paint formulations of TCVP on poultry or livestock? If so, how much?
2. Is this a critical use to the producers using it? Why?
3. What alternatives, if any, exist? Why are they not used in place of the dust and WP paint formulations?

EPA is poised to make a decision soon, so we are requesting you respond in 10 days by May 12th.

Thanks for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Kent L. Smith, Ph.D.
Plant Pathologist
Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP)
Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Room 3859, South Ag Building
Washington, DC 20250-0315
Phone: (202) 720-3186
Fax: (202) 720-3191
May 12, 2005

Kent Smith, Ph.D.
Plant Pathologist
Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP)
Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Room 3859, South Ag Building
Washington, DC  20250-0315

The following information is provided to you from the Western Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Center regarding the dust and paint use of tetrachlorvinphos in the Pacific Northwest region. This information is being sent in response to your May 2nd e-mail to Rick Melnicoe, Director of the Western IPM Center.

Tetrachlorvinphos dust is used for insect control on cattle in some areas of our region. The use is important because the dust application is an alternative to the use of relatively expensive ($1 to $2 apiece) ear tags. One dust bag can be used to treat many cattle at a cost significantly less than ear tags. While ear tags provide excellent control, the tetrachlorvinphos dust provides fair insect control, and, as one entomologist I spoke to pointed out, cattle can tolerate some flies. Tetrachlorvinphos is considered to be an important tool for livestock insect control. One Extension Livestock Specialist I spoke to estimated that tetrachlorvinphos was an active ingredient in 15% of the total insect control products used. (Note that this estimate also includes the feed-through tetrachlorvinphos products which were not included in your inquiry.)

I was able to determine that tetrachlorvinphos is not widely used on poultry in our region. It is possible that there is some use of the roost paint application in young breeders being grown in Oregon; however, I was unable to determine the importance of this application.

I hope that you find the information provided here to be helpful. I am also attaching a contact list to this letter, should you have follow-up questions for any of the people who provided me with information.
Sincerely,

Jane M. Thomas
Pacific Northwest Coalition Comment Coordinator
Washington State Pest Management Resource Service
Washington State University Tri-Cities
2710 University Drive
Richland, WA 99354
phone: 509-372-7493 fax: 509-372-7491
e-mail: jmthomas@tricity.wsu.edu
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<th>Last Name:</th>
<th>First Name:</th>
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<th>Title:</th>
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<tr>
<td>cattle, beef</td>
<td>Jensen</td>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>University of Idaho</td>
<td>Extension Faculty</td>
<td>(208) 896-4104</td>
<td><a href="mailto:scottj@uidaho.edu">scottj@uidaho.edu</a></td>
<td>Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cattle, beef</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Greg</td>
<td>Montana State University</td>
<td>Chairman Entomology Department</td>
<td>(406) 994-3861</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gdj@montana.edu">gdj@montana.edu</a></td>
<td>Montana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cattle, beef</td>
<td>Pirelli</td>
<td>Gene</td>
<td>Oregon State University</td>
<td>Extension Livestock/Forages/Swine Specialist</td>
<td>(503) 623-8395</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gene.pirelli@Oregonstate.edu">gene.pirelli@Oregonstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cattle, beef</td>
<td>Shipka</td>
<td>Milan</td>
<td>University of Alaska Fairbanks</td>
<td>Extension Livestock Specialist</td>
<td>(907) 474-7429</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ffm@uaf.edu">ffm@uaf.edu</a></td>
<td>Alaska</td>
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<td>Jensen</td>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>University of Idaho</td>
<td>Extension Faculty</td>
<td>(208) 896-4104</td>
<td><a href="mailto:scottj@uidaho.edu">scottj@uidaho.edu</a></td>
<td>Idaho</td>
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<td>Chairman Entomology Department</td>
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<td>Gene</td>
<td>Oregon State University</td>
<td>Extension Livestock/Forages/Swine Specialist</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:gene.pirelli@Oregonstate.edu">gene.pirelli@Oregonstate.edu</a></td>
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<td>Extension Livestock Specialist</td>
<td>(907) 474-7429</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ffm@uaf.edu">ffm@uaf.edu</a></td>
<td>Alaska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poultry building/yard</td>
<td>Herm</td>
<td>Jim</td>
<td>Oregon State University</td>
<td>Poultry Specialist</td>
<td>(541) 737-2254</td>
<td><a href="mailto:james.hermes@Oregonstate.edu">james.hermes@Oregonstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regulatory information</td>
<td>Jones</td>
<td>Lynn</td>
<td>Montana Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>Licensing, Certification &amp; Registration Manager</td>
<td>(406) 444-5400</td>
<td></td>
<td>Montana</td>
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<tr>
<td>swine</td>
<td>Pirelli</td>
<td>Gene</td>
<td>Oregon State University</td>
<td>Extension Livestock/Forages/Swine Specialist</td>
<td>(503) 623-8395</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gene.pirelli@Oregonstate.edu">gene.pirelli@Oregonstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swine</td>
<td>Van Tine</td>
<td>Don</td>
<td>Washington State Pork Producers</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>(509) 397-2694</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dvantine@colfax.com">dvantine@colfax.com</a></td>
<td>Washington</td>
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