

## Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticides Program

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### **Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Pesticides Program Working Together with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on Program Implementation**

ODA is the state lead agency responsible for the Oregon Pesticide Control Law (ORS 634). The Pesticides Program is responsible for registering pesticide products for sale, use and distribution; as well as the certification and licensing of pesticide applicators. The program is also responsible for conducting investigations including complaint driven investigations and routine compliance monitoring. ODA has delegated authority from US EPA to enforce the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) in Oregon.

The program maintains a cooperative agreement with the US EPA and routinely interacts with DEQ staff on cross program pesticide related issues including pesticide use in waterways, such as herbicide applications to channels for aquatic weed control; pesticide and water quality issues; and pesticide disposal, including voluntary pesticide disposal events and pesticide disposal issues of regulatory concern. The program provides a comprehensive enforcement program to ensure compliance with state and federal pesticide laws and regulations.

In partnership with Oregon State University and other state agencies, ODA's Pesticide Program staff as well as Water Quality staff are highly engaged in educational outreach efforts regarding label interpretation, worker protection, water quality, pollinator protection and endangered species issues. ODA Pesticides Program is a founding member of the Oregon Bee Project, and participates in the development of grower initiated standard operating procedures (SOPs) to protect pollinators. The program worked in conjunction with OHA to develop a list of pesticides that are legal to use on cannabis, and educate both hemp and marijuana growers about the legal use of pesticides.

In addition, program staff oversee the development and implementation of the Pesticide Management Plan (PMP) as stipulated in the annual EPA and ODA Consolidated Pesticide Cooperative Agreement. The Water Quality Pesticide Management Team (WQPMT), an interagency team, composed of representatives from several agencies, including DEQ, was formed to protect Oregon water ways from pesticide contamination. The program works with DEQ to implement the Pesticide Management Plan, as well as the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (see the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Implementation white paper).

The Pesticide Programs Certification and Licensing staff also work with DEQ staff to help develop study material for pesticide examinations to ensure applicators know how to properly dispose of pesticide wastes. ODA continues to feature DEQ written articles in our biannual Pesticides Bulletin (newsletter) about protecting water quality, including wellheads.