



May 19, 2020

Subject: FINAL NOTICE on Milton-Freewater, Aerial Rodenticide Application, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Use Followup (AUF) # 200194 — Wildhorse Helicopter Inc.

The following information is being provided on behalf of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), and the Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC) to update interested parties on the final determination made by the Department.

On Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019, Wildhorse Helicopters Inc., of Pendleton, Oregon, applied the rodenticide Motomco ZP AG Pellets (EPA Registration No. 12455-17-3240, containing the active ingredient zinc phosphide) to 811 acres of apple orchards northwest of Milton-Freewater. Reports from concerned citizens were received by the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. On Friday, Nov. 8, 2019, a concerned citizen reported the aerial application of the rodenticide was applied in a manner that impacted private properties. Tuesday, Nov. 12, an ODA investigator collected samples of the pellets and submitted them to ODA's analytical laboratory for analysis. The results were positive for zinc phosphide.

Additionally, two dead chickens were collected by a local veterinarian and sent to Washington State University Avian Health laboratory in Puyallup, Washington, for necropsy. Macroscopic examination did not reveal a specific cause of death. One of the chickens was sent to the University of Idaho, and results were positive for phosphine gas. Phosphine gas is generated from zinc phosphide in the presence of stomach acids following ingestion.

The purpose of this final letter is to inform you that ODA's pesticide use investigation is now complete. The Commercial Pesticide Operator and applicator for Wildhorse Helicopter Inc., employees of Blue Mountain Helicopters that assisted in the pesticide application, as well as representatives of the apple orchard, have been fully cooperative. A Final Order has been issued, finding that Wildhorse Helicopter Company, Inc. and the pilot violated Oregon's Pesticide Control Act, Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 634, and imposing civil penalties totaling \$1,628.00. Attached is the case file summary for your review.

ODA's Citizen Advocate, Christina Higby has and will continue to serve as the Point of Contact (POC) if you have questions about this letter or the investigative process. Please contact her at (503) 986-5105 or by email at chigby@oda.state.or.us Information about the pesticide product applied and the product label may be found online: <https://oda.direct/ZPAgPelletsLabel> <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/znpgen.html>

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