



November 14, 2019

Subject: Milton-Freewater, Pesticide Use Concern, 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).

On Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019, Wildhorse Helicopters Inc., of Pendleton, Oregon, a Commercial Pesticide Operator, applied a rodenticide bait product to 811 acres of apple orchards northwest of Milton-Freewater. Reports from concerned citizens were received by the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office. Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office responded and referred parties to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). On Friday, Nov. 8, 2019, the ODA Hermiston Field Office received a concern from one citizen who reported that the aerial application of the rodenticide was applied in a manner to impact private properties. The rodenticide was identified as Motomco, ZP AG Pellets, EPA Registration No. 12455-17-3240 (containing the active ingredient zinc phosphide). The concerned individual indicated the material had landed in her yard, hitting her, and had landed on her children’s trampoline. There was no indication at that time humans or animals had been impacted. The ODA investigator advised the citizen to collect some of the pellets if possible, using gloves, and would meet with her Tuesday morning Nov. 12, 2019.

Over the weekend, several other citizens had expressed concern of the rodenticide application and reported the death of several chickens, two turkeys and potential impact to four dogs. Two chickens have been collected by a local veterinarian and were sent to Washington State University Avian Health laboratory in Puyallup, Washington, for necropsy and analysis. A third chicken has been collected by the ODA investigator and will also be sent to the laboratory. No additional reports of impacts to animals have been reported to ODA.

On Nov. 13, 2019, two ODA investigative staff continued surveillance in the area of the rodenticide application and contacted several residents to better determine the extent of the rodenticide release. No additional findings of the bait had been discovered. Rain and moisture in the area following the application aided in breaking down the bait, reducing the potential hazard for additional ingestion by animals. Citizens who observe any pellets on private property should contact the Oregon Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC). PARC is multi-agency board that coordinates pesticide-related incidents, and provide resources and information to agencies and parties. <https://oda.direct/PARC>.

BOARD MEMBERS

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Oregon Health Authority

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Oregon Department of Forestry

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Administration

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Oregon Poison Center

Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal

Public Member

CONSULTANTS

Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences

Oregon Department of Transportation

Oregon State University



ODA's Citizen Advocate, Christina Higby, has been in communication with several citizens that expressed concerns with the rodenticide application. Ms. Higby will serve as the Point of Contact (POC) for information and resources about the pesticide product applied and investigative process. Contact her at (503) 986-5105. Information about the pesticide product applied and the product label may be found at the following sites:
<https://oda.direct/ZPAgPelletsLabel>

<http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/znpngen.html>

ODA's pesticide use investigation is active and ongoing, and the Commercial Pesticide Operator and applicator for Wildhorse Helicopter Inc., as well as representatives of the apple orchard, have been cooperative.

ODA will provide periodic updates of the status of the investigation to interested parties. Information about the ODA Pesticides Program may be found at the following web page: <https://oda.direct/PesticidesCurrentIssues>