



December 18, 2019

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

The following information is intended to provide an update 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, 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.

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.

ODA's pesticide use investigation is active and ongoing. 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 cooperating.

An ODA investigator will be conducting follow-up interviews with all parties involved to better understand the sequence of events. With assistance from the applicator and landowner, ODA has produced a map with the treated properties identified and is available for review at [ODA Pesticide case # 200194 Map](#). Users can input an address in the search box located at the top of the map to identify a location in respect to the flight area. Please note that the current flight area identified is based on current information and may change with ongoing interviews with parties involved.

ODA's Citizen Advocate, Christina Higby, has been in communication with several individuals that expressed concerns with the rodenticide application and ODA has provided Report of Loss (ROLs) forms. Any person who claims to

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have sustained any loss arising out of the use or application of any pesticide may file a report of loss with ODA. Examples of loss may include but are not limited to: crop, ornamental, pasture, property, animals and/or individuals. Higby has and will continue to 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 online: <https://oda.direct/ZPAgPelletsLabel>  
<http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/znpngen.html>

ODA's Pesticides Program anticipates the investigation process would be completed by early spring 2020 and will continue to provide periodic updates to interested parties until the investigations has been completed. Information about this investigation may be found at the following web page:

<https://oda.direct/PesticidesCurrentIssues>.