

# CIN Chemical Industry News

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## In this issue

### **Page 2**

**Managing chemical residue risks associated with alternative stock feeds**

### **In brief**

### **Page 3**

**Understanding record keeping requirements in Victoria**

### **Page 4**

**2,4-D high volatile ester forms suspended**

**Choosing the appropriate formulation**

### **Page 5**

**How to obtain a Section 25A Permit to authorise off-label chemical use**

**Home-made baits toxic to wildlife**

### **Page 6**

**Recent residue issues in horticulture**

**Correct nozzle selection for 2,4-D applications**

### **Page 7**

**Strong progress in recycling efforts identified by 2005 Agsafe Container Audit of the drumMUSTER program**

## Risks from grazing or cutting failed crops for stock feed

*By Les Toohey, Senior Chemical Standards Officer*

Victoria is experiencing its worst drought on record. In 2006, many cropping farmers were faced with the difficult decision of whether to allow crops to continue to harvest, to cut them for hay or to graze livestock on them.

In the interests of food safety, it was critical that farmers considered potential chemical residue issues associated with failed crops as the use of chemicals may limit the options available. Chemicals used to treat crops and associated withholding periods (WHPs) needed to be reviewed before deciding to cut or graze failing crops for stock feed.

Should livestock consume failed crops that are contaminated with high levels of chemical residues because WHPs have not expired, this could lead to unacceptable chemical residue levels in livestock products such as milk, meat and eggs. This could seriously impact on the marketing of these products if they are declared unfit for consumption.

It is an offence in Victoria to sell agricultural produce, including hay that has come from a treated crop where a WHP has not expired, unless the seller notifies the buyer in writing.

Many fungicides, herbicides and insecticides used on field crops have the WHP statement 'DO NOT GRAZE OR CUT FOR STOCKFEED FOR 'X' DAYS AFTER APPLICATION' in addition to the normal harvest WHP. It is important to recognise that not all chemical labels list WHPs for grazing livestock on every crop listed as approved for treatment.

Livestock producers who are considering purchasing hay bailed from failed crops need to ensure that feed is residue-free. It is advised that they seek written declarations specifying chemical history, usage rates, growth stage and application dates, and that they review the label for each chemical used to ensure feed is fit for purpose.

Vendor declarations are valuable tools available to both sellers and purchasers of stock feed to ensure clear communication on various issues, including chemical use history. Meat and Livestock Australia through its SAFEMEAT program has designed a 'Commodity Vendor Declaration' form for stock feed vendors, available from their website [www.mla.com.au/lpa](http://www.mla.com.au/lpa). Australian Fodder Industry Association Inc (AFIA) members also provide vendor declarations to clients, outlining the history and status of stock feed. Visit [www.afia.org.au](http://www.afia.org.au) for more information. Chemical product labels can be downloaded from the Agricultural Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines website at [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au).

## Managing chemical residue risks associated with alternative stock feeds

By David Rumbold, Chemical Standards Officer

There is a range of alternative stock feeds that can be fed to livestock during times of drought. Alternatives include horticultural crop by-products such as vegetable leaves, citrus pulp, olive pomace, grape marc and almond hulls. Whilst being an attractive source of feed, farmers should be aware that these alternatives may produce unacceptable chemical residues in livestock products.



Photo: Olive pomace stored in a plastic lined earth tank.

Risks associated with chemical residues in alternative stock feeds are a real concern. Chemicals used to control pest and diseases on these crops may not be intended for consumption by livestock, and there may be no tolerance for such residues in animal products. Any detection of these chemicals in meat, milk or eggs could be classed as an unacceptable residue, which could potentially put trade markets, both domestic and export, at risk.

While grain farmers may be familiar with the chemicals used in their own broadacre cropping systems, it is unlikely



Photo: Grape marc bunker at a large-scale winery.

that they will possess as strong an understanding of fruit and vegetable production.

This is compounded by the fact that many horticultural crop by-products are also not intended for human consumption. The waxy outer leaves of broccoli and cauliflower, and the skin and oily seeds of wine grapes (grape marc) contain certain chemicals at higher concentration levels than the edible portion of the plant. These chemicals can accumulate in fatty animal tissue.

The best way to avoid these risks is to use conventional stock feed or alternative feed that has been declared suitable for livestock consumption by the vendor.

Farmers may also test alternative stock feeds for chemical residues at testing facilities before feeding it to livestock.

Before feeding any stock feed to livestock, it is best practice to maintain records that include:

- stock feed type and supplier
- supplier declaration and residue analysis
- identification of livestock fed
- date feeding began and ended
- frequency and amount of feeding.

The bottom line is that if farmers cannot ensure that potential feed alternatives will not lead to any unacceptable residues in meat, milk or eggs, they should look for another source.

## In brief

### COAG review of chemicals of security concern

The Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) discussion paper on the Control of Chemicals of Security Concern was released on 30 November 2006 for comment.

The paper is available through the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website at [www.pmc.gov.au](http://www.pmc.gov.au) and will be open for comment until close of business **Thursday 1 March 2007**.

Written submissions should be sent to:

CBRN Security Branch  
National Security Division  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
3-5 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600  
Email [chemicalsecurity@pmc.gov.au](mailto:chemicalsecurity@pmc.gov.au)

For further information, contact the CBRN Security Branch on 02 6271 5466.

### Victorian agricultural licence and permit audit program

DPI Chemical Standards Branch (CSB) is conducting a three year program that will audit whether individuals who apply agricultural chemicals hold a current DPI issued licence or permit, as well as assess chemical use compliance levels across Victoria.

The program aims to raise the awareness of agricultural chemical use requirements in Victoria and increase compliance levels.

The data collected will be used to identify trends in chemical use practices and compliance levels, which will then become the basis of CSB's targeted training, extension and enforcement programs.

## Understanding record keeping requirements in Victoria

There are many good reasons for keeping chemical use records. Record keeping is mandatory under Victorian law and plays an important role in today's pest management and quality assurance programs. Data captured in records can be used to measure the effectiveness of chemicals used and demonstrate due care.

Under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 1996*, it is a legal requirement in Victoria to make specific records relating to using 'restricted use' chemicals. 'Restricted use' chemicals are Schedule 7 poisons (Dangerous Poisons), atrazine, metham sodium and ester formulations of 2,4-D, 2,4-DB, MCPA and triclopyr.

Records must contain:

| Record Required  | Example   |
|--|---|
| 1. Name and address of chemical supplier                 | <i>Better Farm Supplies<br/>Woop Woop, 3000</i> |
| 2. Name and quantity of chemical used                    | <i>Better Farm Estericide 800 10L</i>           |
| 3. Batch number<br>Expiry Date                           | <i>68842<br/>07/01/07</i>                       |
| 4. Specific written precautions in addition to the label | <i>~</i>  |
| 5. Withhold period                                       | <i>7 days</i>                                   |
| 6. Address or location of treated area                   | <i>Paddock 5 see map</i>                        |
| 7. Type of vegetation in the treated area                | <i>wheat</i>                                    |
| 8. Pest to be controlled                                 | <i>capeweed</i>                                 |
| 9. Temperature<br>Wind direction<br>Wind speed           | <i>14 C<br/>NW<br/>10km/hour</i>                |
| 10. Date and time of application                         | <i>5th June 2004 3.00-5.00pm</i>                |
| 11. Rate of application                                  | <i>700mL/Ha</i>                                 |
| 12. Application method                                   | <i>boom</i>                                     |
| 13. Name & address of applicator                         | <i>Bill Bloggs, South Rd Woop Woop<br/>3000</i> |
| 14. DPI or APVMA permit                                  | <i>~</i>  |
| Comments   | <i>~</i>  |

DPI licensed ground and aerial spraying contractors must keep the records for all chemical applications, not just for 'restricted use' chemicals. Spray contractors are required to keep three additional records, which must be certified, signed and dated.

| Record Required  | Example   |
|--|---|
| Name and address of person for whom the spraying was carried out   | <i>Better Farm Supplies<br/>Woop Woop, 3000</i>                 |
| Registration number of vehicle and/or Sprayer ID   | <i>VSS 351<br/>Mister #1</i>                                    |
| Name and address of the person in the business of chemical application   | <i>David Jones Pastoral Co.,<br/>North Road, Woop Woop 3000</i> |
| <p>"I certify that this is a true and accurate record of agricultural spraying"</p> <p>Signed: <i>David Jones</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>David Jones</i></span></p> <p>Dated: <i>5 June 2004</i></p> |   |

These records must be kept for two years from the date of application.

Chemical users who keep records in a system provided by their quality assurance system, chemical supplier or from any other organisation need to check that it complies with the record keeping requirements outlined here.

Timing is also important when recording chemical use. Records should be made at the time of application, or soon after because in the event of a legal dispute (eg. spraydrift allegation), they will serve as reliable evidence. Making records at this time demonstrates that withholding periods, application rates and wind speeds are checked prior to chemical application, and that due care has been taken, potentially protecting you from legal action.

While DPI does specify what records must be made and kept, the actual format is up to the user. The only requirement is that details must be readily available to a DPI authorised officer upon request. Chemical record books that comply with regulatory requirements are available commercially and DPI offers a record keeping sheet, which is available on the DPI Chemical Standards website at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards).

## 2,4-D high volatile ester forms suspended

The Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has suspended the registration and label approvals of 2,4-D high volatile esters until 30 April 2007.

The suspension commenced on 3 October 2006. During this period it is an offence to use any product containing 2,4-D high volatile esters, namely the ethyl, butyl and isobutyl esters, in any area of Australia, including Victoria.

2,4-D high volatile esters readily evaporate under certain environmental conditions and can cause unintended damage to non-target vegetation. They can be transported as a vapour for many kilometres and in unpredictable directions by the wind. There is a significant risk that they will cause unintended harm to non-target vegetation, particularly susceptible crops.

Permits to use products containing high volatile ester forms of 2,4-D during this period may be considered under specific circumstances.

Farmers operating within Victoria's Agricultural Chemical Control Areas should note, however, that the controls already applicable within these areas remain in force.

Products containing 2,4-D are commonly used for control of broadleaf weeds in an extensive range of crops and non-cropping situations. Major agricultural uses of 2,4-D include cereal and oilseed crops, pasture, stubble and fallow maintenance. It is also used on citrus crops, sweetcorn and in non-cropping areas for weed control.

Further information can be obtained on the APVMA website at [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au), or by contacting the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

## Choosing the appropriate formulation

*By Steven Field, Chemical Standards Officer*

There are many pest control chemicals that are available as different formulations. When selecting a product, users need to decide what formulation type best suits their usage requirements.

Parathion-methyl is an example of a chemical with different formulations. It is an important insecticide that is used in Victoria's orchard industry and on some vegetable crops. Chemical manufacturers develop different formulations of the same chemical for a variety of reasons, such as to improve handling safety or improve efficacy.

Parathion-methyl comes in an emulsifiable concentrate (EC) and in a microencapsulated formulation. The microencapsulated formulation is a slow release insecticide, giving longer term control of the target pests when compared to the EC formulation.

Under Victorian law, different products that contain the same active constituent are subject to different restrictions. The EC is a Schedule 7 (Dangerous Poison), whereas the microencapsulated formulation is a Schedule 6 (Poison) because of its lower acute toxicity. To use the Schedule 7 EC formulation, as with all Schedule 7 agricultural chemicals, a user must hold a valid Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP), only use the product according to the directions and registered uses listed on the label and maintain usage records.

Methiocarb products are another example where two different formulations exist for the same active constituent. The Schedule 7 spray formulation only has a limited number of registered uses in Victoria, whilst the Schedule 5 bait formulation has a broad range of crop registrations.

When considering different product formulations, users should always take into account the greater level of risk associated with Schedule 7 agricultural chemicals and regulatory requirements such as ACUPs and record keeping. Remember, never assume that just because products have the same active constituent, that they can all be used for the same purpose and on the same crops.

## How to obtain a Section 25A Permit to authorise off-label chemical use

By Akau Chan, Project Officer, AgVet Chemicals

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is responsible for the registration of all agricultural and veterinary chemicals. There is a common misconception that the APVMA is also responsible for issuing all off-label use permits in Victoria. While the APVMA does issue certain agricultural chemical use permits, many do not apply in Victoria. Chemical users need to be aware of which permits apply to them and know where to seek permits to legalise an otherwise, restricted use.

The APVMA authorises permits which enable the following uses in Victoria:

- 1) to use an unregistered agricultural chemical product
- 2) to use a registered agricultural chemical product at a rate higher than the maximum application rate or at more frequent intervals than stated on the product label
- 3) to use a registered product contradictory to label directions, including when the label has a restraint statement (eg. "DO NOT use on container, hydroponic; greenhouse, or glasshouse grown crops").

Each state has in place its own Control of Use legislation governing the use of registered agricultural and veterinary chemicals. These products should be used in accordance with label directions. DPI is responsible for regulating use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals in Victoria.

Usage restrictions apply to several agricultural chemicals in Victoria, which are known as 'restricted use' chemicals. 'Restricted use' chemicals are Schedule 7 poisons (Dangerous Poisons), atrazine, metham sodium and ester formulations of 2,4-D, 2,4-DB, MCPA and triclopyr. To use these products, a user must hold a valid Agricultural Chemical User Permit (ACUP) or other form of authorisation. It is illegal to use 'restricted use' chemicals off-label unless the user holds a Section 25A Permit issued by DPI.

A Section 25A Permit is required to legally use a 'restricted use' chemical off-label in Victoria. To obtain a permit, an application form, available on the DPI Chemical Standards website must be submitted to DPI for assessment. Applications should be supported with information explaining how the proposed usage will impact on areas such as efficacy, crop and environmental safety, human health and chemical residues. Upon receipt, DPI conducts a risk assessment of the proposed off-label use. After carefully considering results from the risk assessment, DPI then determines whether to issue a permit to authorise the off-label use. Consideration is only given if there is no alternative registered product that will deliver the required outcome.

For more information on off-label chemical use permits, including the Section 25A Permit application form, visit the DPI Chemical Standards website at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards) or APVMA website at [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au).

## Home-made baits toxic to wildlife

By Steven Field, Chemical Standards Officer

Landowners who use home-made baits to control pest animals on their property are posing a serious threat to native wildlife.

DPI has received numerous reports of landholders using illegal home-made baits to control foxes and wild dogs. Home-made baits are prohibited in Victoria because they can be a toxic to both users and wildlife. Usage can attract a hefty penalty in excess of \$20,000.

Home-made baits are non-selective in which animal they target, and can kill many non-target native animals, including domestic pets. This damage may continue along the natural food chain, with animals such as eagles, feeding off poisoned carcasses and falling victim to home-made baits through secondary poisoning.

Registered baits are legal and can be used as part of pest management programs. These baits are formulated to deter, or limit their attractiveness to non-target animals through using more pest-selective chemicals, adding bittering agents, colouring and usage directions to minimise access to non-target animals.

DPI also provide advice and a range of support programs to landholders affected by wild dogs or foxes including:

- a 1300 10 1080 hotline which provides information on fox baiting practices on freehold land
- commercially manufactured baits such as 'Foxoff' or 'DeFox', available under special conditions to current Agricultural Chemical User Permit (ACUP) holders who must maintain usage records
- the 'Request for Assistance' reporting system, which records any wild dogs seen and heard, stock losses and stock maimed from wild dog activity.

For more information, contact the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au).

## Recent residue issues in horticulture

By David Rumbold, Chemical Standards Officer

It is becoming increasingly evident that there are unacceptable residue risks associated with using agricultural chemicals on different crops grown closely together. The Victorian Produce Monitoring Program (VPMP) identified several instances where the spray application on one crop drifted onto an adjacent crop within the same property, producing an unacceptable residue. Growers must take care as different commodities often have different Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) for the same chemical. In cases where no MRL is established, any detection is unacceptable and could jeopardise domestic and export markets.

During a recent chemical residue traceback audit, DPI came across an incident involving unacceptable pyrimethanil residues in apricots, which has no MRL. The grower had used a product containing pyrimethanil to treat pear trees on his property. The pear trees were in an adjacent block to apricot trees, with only standard row spacing and no buffer in between. Given this close proximity, it was impossible for the grower to treat the pear trees without some spray drifting onto the apricots, causing the residues.



Photo: Apricot and pear trees grown in close proximity.

To avoid potential spraydrift contamination, space plantings out and plant a suitable vegetative buffer between different crops. Alternatively, use a different chemical which can be used on both commodities and has an established MRL, but it is best to always limit spraydrift as a first resort.

Another contributor of unacceptable residues has been failure to decontaminate packing lines, spray tanks and equipment fully before switching between commodities. Always clean equipment thoroughly before using it for different produce.

Changes to product labels may also raise residue issues. Should directions for using a product to treat a particular commodity be removed from a label, it is likely that the MRL has also been removed. In the past, procymidone products have been commonly used to treat lettuce. Recently, this use has been prohibited and the MRL removed. As procymidone products are Schedule 7 (DANGEROUS POISONS) and classified as 'restricted chemicals', usage must be strictly in accordance with the label. Therefore, it is now illegal to use any procymidone products on lettuce in Victoria. Before treating a commodity with a new product batch, remember to read the label carefully or consult your local chemical reseller to ensure usage is permitted.

## Correct nozzle selection for 2,4-D applications

Michael Laity, Chemical Standards Officer

The phenoxy herbicide 2,4-D, has a history of causing damage to valuable, non-target horticultural crops through off-target spraydrift.

As a result, all products containing 2,4-D as an active ingredient now have the following label instruction:

“DO NOT apply with smaller than coarse to very coarse spray droplets according to the ASAE S572 definition for standard nozzles.”

This label statement means it is now an offence to use 2,4-D using nozzles that do not meet this requirement. Many boomspray operators use standard flat fan nozzles that will only produce a medium to fine droplet size according to the ASAE S572 definition. These, including the commonly used 02 (Yellow) flat fan nozzle, can no longer be used to spray 2,4-D.

Until recently, it has been difficult to achieve a coarse to very coarse spray droplet without significantly increasing the water rate. Advances in nozzle design such as a pre-orifice and the addition of air into the nozzle now allow larger droplet sizes to be used while maintaining desired water rates and spray effectiveness.

Many leading nozzle manufacturers have produced technical guides that can be used to select nozzles which produce coarse to very coarse spray droplets, improving the selection process.

In response to this legislative change, DPI Chemical Standards staff completed training focussed on managing spray quality and droplet size, equipping them with the ability to audit spray operators to ensure label directions are being followed correctly.

DPI advises all 2,4-D users to check that they are using the correct nozzle type and pressure to ensure they are using products legally and to help minimise spraydrift incidents.



Photo: DPI Chemical Standards Officers measuring the output of boomspray nozzles.

## Strong progress in recycling efforts identified by 2005 Agsafe Container Audit of the drumMUSTER program

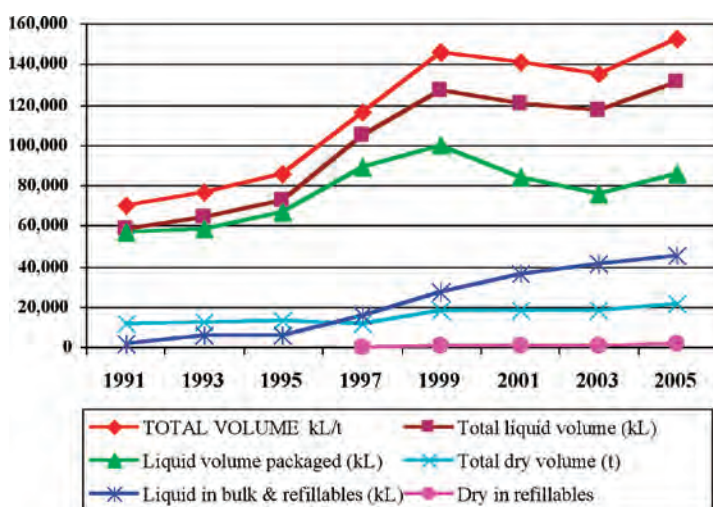
The 2005 Audit found strong progress in the drumMUSTER program with real gains being made since its commencement in May 1999.

The 2005 Audit sought to identify trends in packaging and to measure the progress made by industry in adopting new technologies, packaging and distribution in achieving a reduction in waste at source. The major focus of the industry is on containers that are one litre/kilogram or more in size, which are the sizes targeted by the ANZECC National Strategy for the Management of Empty Unwanted Farm Chemical Containers.

The three successful waste reduction technologies adopted by industry over the past decade have been; the conversion from liquid to dry formulations, the increase in concentration of liquid formulations and the delivery of both dry and liquid products in returnable containers that go back to the manufacturer for refilling or are delivered in 1000 litre intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) which are collected by the IBC manufacturer. The latest container audit as indicated by the accompanying graph reinforces this positive trend with the result that since 1999 there has been:

- an increase of 64.6 per cent in deliveries of liquid formulations in bulk and returnable containers
- a decrease by 14.2 per cent of the volume of liquid delivered in single trip containers
- an increase of 15.3 per cent in dry formulations (powders, granules and crystals).

### Trends in container usage 1991 -2005 - volumes delivered (kL/t)

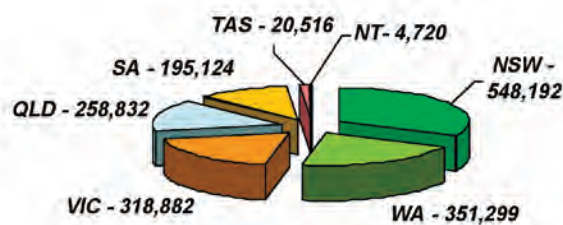


(Source: drumMUSTER)

Since the program commenced in mid-1999 drumMUSTER has been successful in diverting some 9,156,781 containers or 13,000 tonnes of waste that could have potentially been deposited in landfills or disposed of in a non-environmentally responsible manner by burning or burying. Collection of containers is supported by 488 collection agencies around Australia with the majority (452) being local council sites.

For the Financial Year 2005/06 a total of 1,697,565 drums were collected, which equates to 2,243 tonnes diverted from landfills. This total is also a record collection. Individual state returns are listed below and reflect high usage in the broadacre farming regions.

### 2005-06 State Drum Returns



(Source: drumMUSTER)

The impact of the drought is having a dramatic effect on the number of user chemical drums collected during the Financial Year 2006/07 drumMUSTER collections. Preliminary national figures indicate that farmers have cut their chemical applications, and therefore the number of used clean drums they deliver for recycling, by around half.

While primarily a rural based program, a drumMUSTER pilot collection program is due to be rolled out in metropolitan Melbourne in January 2007 to explore cost-effectiveness and potential uptake by urban users including those operating in the turf, golf and nursery industries. In looking to the future we see drumMUSTER as being well positioned to continue to meet government objectives at all levels in maximising opportunities for recycling and reducing the amount of waste of going to landfill.

Lastly, it is important for us to recognise the partnership approach that is integral to drumMUSTER's ongoing success. While it is a stewardship initiative of the agricultural and veterinary chemicals industry, drumMUSTER would not have achieved the current high level of success and support it enjoys today without the support of farmers doing the right thing for the environment and returning containers for recycling.

**If not claimed, return to:**

Department of Primary Industries  
475-485 Mickleham Road, Attwood, Victoria 3049

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## DPI CHEMICAL INFORMATION

**Visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards) for more information about:**

- Rules and Regulations regarding the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals in Victoria
- Licence and permit application forms
- Agricultural Chemical Control Areas
- Previous issues of CIN

**Chemical Industry News (CIN)**

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