

Look What's Out There

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<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/>

Unscrupulous companies are selling bogus products that allegedly protect you (and your precious children) from anthrax.

The EPA issued stop-sale orders to Aerotech Laboratories Inc., Phoenix, AZ, and American Security and Control Inc., Falls Church, VA, to cease advertising and selling their respective products that supposedly protect against anthrax. The companies both marketed their unregistered pesticides over the Internet.

The EPA ordered Aerotech to stop selling the unregistered pesticide Modec Decon Formulation included in their "Bioterrorism Response Kit." The label claimed the pesticide "Decontaminates & Mitigates Chemical & Biological Weapons Agents." American Security was selling "Easy DECON Spray," promoted as a "personal incident anthrax and biological and chemical decontamination sprayer." The stop sale order also included "Anthrax and Biological Decontamination System" and the "Anthrax and other Biologicals Decontaminant Killer Solution." The company claimed the pesticide had received EPA approval. The agency has no pesticides registered for the control of anthrax.

Although you can spend millions of dollars on products that supposedly protect you from anthrax, you would probably be better off to stick your money up your nose. It would protect you just as well, and you could get the money back later. Believe it or not, some information on the Internet is not true. Do not buy pesticides over the Internet unless the dealer is a reputable company that you know well.

Crop Profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans

The concept of crop profiles and pest management strategic plans was introduced by the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy a few years ago as a means for commodity groups to concisely present, in a written document, their production practices and pest management problems and practices. These documents are stakeholder driven and developed with input from growers and other industry personnel, with the assistance of University researchers and Extension personnel. A crop profile is a document that describes the production practices for a commodity, the pest problems associated with its production, and the pest management practices (biological, chemical, cultural, and mechanical) used to control the pests. It identifies critical pest management needs, including the importance of individual pesticides to both IPM and resistance management programs. It also includes a description of the type and frequency of worker activities. The profile is usually written to include only one state and one commodity but can encompass several states if production practices, pest problems, and control methods are similar across state lines. A pest management strategic plan (PMSP) is a document that builds upon a crop profile. In addition to the information that is found in the crop profile, the PMSP helps set pest management priorities for the commodity group. The PMSP presents a prioritized list of research, regulatory, and educational needs of the commodity, which can then help facilitate the transition to alternative pest management practices, if needed. As mandated by the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act, the EPA is currently reviewing older pesticide registrations. If some are dropped

during the review, alternative pest management chemicals and/or practices need to be clearly identified. The benefits of each document are numerous. The EPA will often look at information presented in a crop profile or PMSP as they conduct occupational and environmental risk assessments for pesticide registrations. The crop profile or PMSP will highlight critical pests, pest management strategies or products, and use patterns that must be considered during their review of a certain pesticide chemistry (organophosphates being the chemistry currently under intense review). Increased funding for projects that will benefit the commodity is also a possibility. Competitive grants to support pest management research and Extension programs often times require evidence that the proposal address priorities established by stakeholders; the crop profile and the PMSP help meet this requirement. In addition, crop profiles and especially PMSPs, provide a snapshot of a commodity and can help that industry to develop a strategy for dealing with pest management and pest management issues now and in the future. Completed crop profiles and PMSPs can be found on the internet at <http://www.pmcenters.org> (once there, click on "Crop Profiles/PMSPs", then search by state or commodity). Crop profiles and PMSPs for West Virginia are being coordinated through a grant from the USDA/Northeastern Region Pest Management Center. West Virginia State University can provide assistance for developing one or both of these documents if there is interest and commitment from a commodity group.

Growers in four states will soon be able to purchase insurance that will protect them from losses incurred by following Best Management Practices (BMP).

BMP is a cousin of IPM. In this situation, BMP refers to nutrient management. A Wisconsin survey found that two out of three corn growers apply more than the recommended amount of nitrogen, and 80 percent apply excess phosphorous. The growers consider the extra fertilizer to be cheap insurance to guard against nutrient loss or underproduction in those years when conditions would produce a bumper crop.

Several crop insurance companies will offer the policies through a federally subsidized program.

To qualify for the insurance, the grower must work with a certified crop consultant. The grower fertilizes a check strip at his usual fertilization rate, but follows state recommendations on the remaining acreage. If the yield in the check strip is more than five percent higher than the rest of the acreage, the insurance company pays the grower. For more information, see www.agflex.com (*IPM Institute Newsletter*, Vol. 3-Issue 4)

Pesticide News

* The New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene's Office of Community Relations has a general fact sheet on West Nile Virus in 17 different languages (including Arabic, Sengali, Chinese, Creole, French, German, Greek, Italian, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Urdu and Yiddish). Read the English version on-line at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/wnv/wnvfaq1.html> Call their office to find out about receiving copies in other languages (212-788-4735). The NYC Department of Health also has toll-free West Nile Virus Information in Spanish and English (1-877-968-4692). During the peak mosquito season, they plan to answer calls from 8 am to 9 pm; staffing will probably be reduced during the winter.

* On December 9, the EPA published a *Federal Register* notice announcing the cancellation of a number of products which contain diazinon, as well as some uses on diazinon-containing products. The products which were cancelled entirely were labeled for residential use, which is being phased out over the next several years. Product label amendments largely deal with the loss of celery on granular formulation labels. (*Federal Register*, 12/9/02).