

Look What's Out There

Dr. John F. Baniecki, Extension Specialist in Plant Pathology/Entomology, Pest Management Program

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Pesticide Data Program Reports Virtually No Pesticide Exceedances for 2001

The Pesticide Data Program (PDP) was initiated by USDA in May 1991 to collect data on pesticide residues in foods. These data are used by the EPA and USDA, as well as the private sector, to construct realistic pesticide dietary exposure assessments as part of the ongoing effort of the Food Quality Protection Act. In 2001, drinking water samples were also collected and analyzed. The foods sampled by the program tend to concentrate on those items typically consumed by infants and children. Samples are randomly collected close to the time and point of consumption. The monthly sampling rate is 62 samples per commodity, except for highly seasonal commodities. Of the 12,264 samples collected in 2001, 9,903 were fruit and vegetable commodities including canned sweet pea, canned sweet corn, tomato paste, fresh apple, banana, broccoli, carrot, celery, cherry, grape, green bean, lettuce, mushroom, nectarine, orange, peach, pineapple, and potato. There were 689 rice samples analyzed, 911 beef samples, 464 poultry samples, and 297 drinking water samples. Approximately 82 percent of the samples were domestic and 17 percent were imported (mostly banana, pineapple, peach, grape, and green bean).

Approximately 64 percent of the fruit and vegetable samples (domestic and imported), 49 percent of the drinking water samples, and 19 percent of the beef tissue samples had detectable residues. Residues in beef were almost entirely from persistent chemicals which have been canceled for agricultural use for many years.

There were no detectable residues in poultry samples.

Overall, approximately 44 percent of the food samples and 41 percent of the water samples contained no detectable residues. For food and water combined, twenty-four percent contained one residue and 32 percent contained more than one residue. No residues were found in processed peas and only two samples of canned corn contained residues (out of over 180 samples of both). Approximately 70 percent of tomato paste and rice samples contained no residues. For drinking water, none of the detections exceeded established EPA Maximum Contaminant Levels or Health Advisory levels. With regard to pesticide tolerances, PDP testing found residues exceeding an established tolerance in 0.1 percent (1 in 1,000) of the 12,264 samples analyzed (roughly 12 samples). Residues with no established tolerance were found in 1.8 percent of all samples, but were found in such minute quantities that exposure was probably due to spray drift or crop rotation. (PDP Annual Summary Calendar Year 2001 Report, USDA, February 2003).

Editor's note: The fact that nearly half of our food stream contains no detectable residues under current practices demonstrates a huge commitment to IPM and sound pest management practices. The PDP program authenticates the farmer's hard work.

Adulticides and The Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Program

Since there is discussion of registrants voluntarily relabeling their mosquito adulticide products as restricted use, it may be of interest to review the U.S. laws regarding recordkeeping of

these products. The USDA's Agricultural Marketing

Service administers the Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Program, which requires all certified private applicators to keep records of their use of federally restricted use pesticides for a period of 2 years. The Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Program was authorized by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, commonly referred to as the 1990 Farm Bill. Under this law, all certified private pesticide applicators who have no requirement through state regulations to maintain records must comply with the federal pesticide recordkeeping regulations. Certified private pesticide applicators who are required to maintain records of pesticide applications under state regulations will continue to keep their records as required. The pesticide recordkeeping regulations require the certified private pesticide applicator to record the following for each application, within 14 days of the application: the brand/product name, the EPA registration number, the total quantity of the pesticide applied in common units of measure, and the date of the pesticide application, including month, day, and year.

The location of the restricted use pesticide application, not the address of the farm or business, can be reported by four options:

- a. county, range, township, or section,
- b. identification system established by USDA, such as plat IDs used by the Farm Service Agency or the Natural Resource Conservation Service,
- c. legal property description, as listed on the deed of trust or county/city records, or
- d. an applicator generated identification system that accurately identifies the location of the application.

Other information includes crop commodity, stored product, or site being treated, size of area treated, the name of the private applicator

performing and/or supervising the application, and the certification number (if applicable) of the private applicator. If the name of the private applicator and the certification number are kept together, this information only has to be listed once.

Although there is a spot spray section of the federal law, greenhouse and nursery applicators are required to keep all data elements as listed. Attending licensed health care professionals or those acting under their direction, USDA representatives, and state regulatory representatives have legal access to the records. No standard federal form is required, so that pesticide recordkeeping can be integrated into the applicator's current recordkeeping schemes. All certified commercial pesticide applicators will continue to maintain the records they currently keep under state, tribal, or federal regulations. The federal pesticide recordkeeping regulations require all commercial applicators, both agricultural and non-agricultural, to furnish a copy of the data elements required by this regulation or their state, to the customer within 30 days of the restricted use pesticide application.

Pesticide News

* Zoecon has introduced a granular mosquito larvicide for residential settings. Pre-Strike® (methoprene) is an insect growth regulator which will be sold in one-pound shaker bottles. It is ideal for birdbaths, flowerpots, gutters, water gardens, tree holes, and other water-holding areas. It lasts for 21 days after application and is non-toxic to vegetation and wildlife when used as directed. (*Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News*, 3/17/03).

* Dow AgroSciences LLC has obtained an exemption from the requirement of obtaining an experimental use permit from FDACS for the use of Curfew® (1,3-dichloropropene) nematicide on selected greens at Champions Gate Golf Club between the dates of May 1 and September 1, 2003. (FDACS letter of 3/26/03).