south dakota department of agriculture
Pesticide Applicator Newsletter

Summer 2002 Issue 25

Pesticide Container Recycling Schedule

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service have set the following dates and locations for the 2002 container recycling collection program.

City	Date	Location	Time
McLaughlin	July 8	County Highway Shop	9:00-12:00
Bison	July 8	Perkins Co. Fairgrounds	2:00-5:00
Belle Fourche	July 9	Southwest Grain	9:00-12:00
Rapid City	July 9	Central States Fairgrounds	2:00-5:00
Philip	July 10	Midwest Coop	9:00-12:00
Martin	July 10	Midwest Coop Fertilizer Plant	2:00-5:00
Murdo	July 11	DOT	9:00-12:00
Chamberlain	July 11	SD Wheatgrowers	2:00-5:00
Watertown	July 15	Codington Co Extension	9:00-3:00
Watertown	July 16	Codington Co Extension	9:00-12:00
Clark	July 16	Clark Fire Hall	1:00-4:00
Redfield	July 17	Spink Co Fairgrounds	9:00-12:00
Miller	July 17	Nelson's Seed Service	2:00-5:00
Huron	July 18	SD State Fairgrounds	9:00-12:00
Wessington Springs	July 18	Am. Legion Parking Lot	2:00-5:00
Winner	July 22	Tripp Co Recycling Center	9:00-12:00
Wagner	July 22	Crosstown	2:00-5:00
Tyndall	July 23	Bon Homme Co. 4H Grounds	9:00-12:00
Hurley	July 23	Eastern Farmers Coop	2:00-5:00
Olivet	July 24	Hutchinson Co Courthouse	9:00-12:00
Corsica	July 24	Corsica Coop	2:00-5:00
Mitchell	July 25	Davison Co Extension	9:00-2:00
Sisseton	July 29	Country Partners	9:00-2:00
Aberdeen	July 30	Agriliance Express Center	9:00-2:00
Selby	July 31	Walworth Co Hwy Dept	9:00-3:00
Pierre	Aug 1	SDDA Baitstation	8:00-2:00
Howard	Aug 5	Cenex	9:00-12:00
Madison	Aug 5	Lake Co 4H Grounds	1:00-4:00
Brookings	Aug 6	Brookings Regional Landfill	9:00-3:00
Flandreau	Aug 7	**Location Pending**	9:00-2:00
Renner	Aug 8	Renner Fire Hall	9:00-3:00

Containers eligible for the program are high density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic 2-½ gallon and smaller containers and 30 and 55 gallon HDPE plastic and steel containers. Out-of-condition plastic minibulk containers can also be recycled. All containers must be triple or pressure rinsed. Contact the SDDA if you have minibulks for recycling.

The locations below will accept containers anytime during regular business hours:

Vermillion – Contact Phyllis Packard at Missouri Valley Rec Center (605) 677-7076

Pierre – Contact SDDA at (605) 773-4432 or 1-800-228-5254

Huron – Contact Russ Layton at Bauman Agency at (605) 353-1112

SD Department of Agriculture
523 E Capitol Ave – Foss Building
Pierre, SD 57501-3182
Phone 605/773-4432
Fax 605/773-3481
www.state.sd.us/doa/das

From The Department...

Unusable Pesticide Disposal

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture collects unusable pesticides each year in the fall. Anyone in South Dakota is eligible to participate in this free program.

Unusable pesticides are defined as any pesticide formulation unusable because:

- Label uses have been cancelled
- Pesticides have no labels, so proper use is impossible
- Pesticides are deteriorated (product has caked or settled out)

These products must be pre-registered with the department by October 1 to make sure they are eligible for collection. Persons holding eligible pesticides will be requested to bring their pesticides to the nearest collection site on collection day.

You may register these items online at www.state.sd.us/doa/das/disp_frm2.htm or call 1-800-228-5254 for a registration form.

Livestock Insecticide Use and Safety

Most often, we think of pesticide safety in terms of herbicides and crops. But taking safety precautions when applying insecticides to livestock is just as important. General safety precautions should be taken when using ear tags or other insecticide treatments.

- Read the label and follow all directions given
- Wear non-permeable or rubber gloves, even when handling ear tags. Leather gloves, once contaminated, cannot be uncontaminated and pesticide residue will always remain on them.
- Depending on the product, other PPE should be worn, including protective eyewear, a respirator, additional body protection and chemical resistant boots. Leather boots, similar to leather gloves, can't be uncontaminated.
- Children should never handle any livestock insecticides, including ear tags.

(continued on p. 7)

Commercial Applicator Web Training Available Now

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's commercial applicator internet training site is up and running. This system allows applicators who want to obtain a commercial applicator's license to study the training materials and take the commercial applicator's exam over the internet. By using this system, applicators will be able to complete the exam at their own convenience and pace.

The web site has instructions to assist you in studying for and completing the exam. In the course of taking the test, you can stop at any time and then restart right where you left off. You must receive a 70% to pass the exam. If you fail a category, you must wait for three days before you can retest. If you have a specific question or need clarification on a part of the exam, call the department for assistance.

The site allows an individual to get certified the first time or to re-certify if you miss a recertification meeting. (You must retest if you miss the recertification meeting). The tests will include all certification categories offered by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. Certification is valid for two years.

New applicators must also apply for a license with the department. Existing applicators will be mailed a new license showing the updated category.

The internet address to access the commercial applicator site is www.state.sd.us/doa/das. If you have any questions or comments regarding this exam site, you may contact us at (605) 773-4432.

Checklist for Recycling Containers

To be acceptable for recycling, plastic crop protection product containers, including agricultural, turf, forestry, vegetative management and specialty pest control as well as adjuvants, crop oils, and surfactants must be empty, clean, inspected, uncapped, and dry. Follow this checklist to make sure your containers are acceptable.

EMPTY – Plastic containers must be empty to be recycled.
CLEAN – Pressure or triple rinse the container as soon as it is emptied. Add the rinse water to the spray mix. Containers must be cleaned or they will not be accepted into the recycling program.
INSPECT – Check the container inside and outside after rinsing to insure that no formulation residue is present. Make sure to check the threads and lip of the container.
DISCARD CAPS – Caps are usually made of a different kind of plastic and cannot be recycled. Be sure to clean the cap at the time the container is rinsed. Never put a cap back on a cleaned container. Dispose of cleaned caps as normal solid waste.
KEEP CONTAINERS DRY – Cleaned containers must be kept out of the rain and away from rainwater. The recycler will not accept containers that have liquid in them because they have no way to dispose of the liquid. Store cleaned containers in a roofed building, an enclosed trailer, or in plastic bags.
LABELS – There is no need to remove labels from cleaned containers.
STAINS – Containers that originally held products known to stain plastic (e.g. Treflan, Sonalan, etc.) are acceptable for recycling if the plastic is stained but otherwise clean.

The Fate of Atrazine

EPA is in the final stages of a multi-year review of atrazine. As the review comes to a close, some opponents of the product, such as the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) are urging the EPA to ban atrazine.

NRDC is citing two studies as evidence that atrazine is harmful to the environment and to humans. One study conducted at the University of California – Berkeley reported that African clawed frog larvae, when exposed to different levels of atrazine, exhibited changes in sexual characteristics, which would affect their ability to reproduce. The researchers hypothesize that atrazine is an endocrine disrupter which promotes conversion of testosterone to estrogen.

The second study claims higher prostate cancer rates for workers in a Syngenta factory in Louisiana. The NRDC claims Syngenta conducted a study of their Louisiana plant but buried the study when it showed an increase in prostate cancer rates among its workers. Syngenta denies the claims and states that it has been forthcoming with information on atrazine to its workers and to EPA.

The EPA has found that atrazine is "not likely to be carcinogenic to humans."

For more information on atrazine and the opportunity to offer public comment, visit www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/atrazine

Useful Websites

Following are a list of the websites mentioned in this newsletter. Be sure to add these to your Favorites.
www.state.sd.us/doa/das/container.htm – Pesticide Container Collection Schedule
www.state.sd.us/doa/das/disp_frm2.htm – Unusable Pesticide Disposal Form
www.state.sd.us/doa/das – Department of Agriculture, Division of Ag Services (links to Commercial Applicator Web Training, Online Pesticide Reporting)
www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/atrazine – Atrazine Reassessment and Reregistration
www.npic.orst.edu – National Pesticide Information Center
www.abs.sdstate.edu/plantsci/ext/pat/pestrecord.htm – Private Applicator Recordkeeping
www.state.sd.us/doa/das/rec_poli.htm – Commercial Applicator Recordkeeping

National Pesticide Information Center

The National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) has changed its name to the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC). NPIC is a toll-free telephone and internet service that provides objective, science-based information about a wide variety of pesticide-related subjects to the public and to professionals.

NPIC can:

- Help callers interpret and understand toxicology and environmental chemistry information about pesticides
- Access over 300 pesticide resources and pesticide label information
- Supply general information on regulation of pesticides in the United States
- Direct callers for
  - Pesticide incident investigation
  - Emergency human and animal treatment
  - Safety practices
  - Clean-up and disposal
  - Laboratory analyses

NPIC operates from 8:30 – 6:30 CST, seven days a week. NPIC can be reached at 1-800-858-7378 or on the web at http://npic.orst.edu. Email them at npic@ace.orst.edu

Protecting Honey Bees

Honeybees are valuable pollinators of many plants that provide food and cover to wildlife, contribute to soil fertility and erosion control, and add beauty to our landscapes. Bee pollinated crops have a farm value of approximately $10 billion. Honeybees produce $200 million of honey annually in the US.

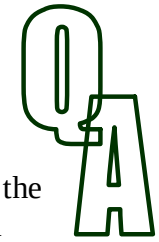
Protecting pollinators when applying pesticides to crops is very important. Take in to consideration these factors when planning your applications:

- **Communication** Communication and cooperation between beekeepers, farmers, and applicators is the most important factor in reducing bee injury.
  - Beekeepers need to be aware of cropping practices and pest management practices.
  - Farmers and applicators need to be aware of apiary sites, and possess a basic understanding of bee behavior and knowledge of which materials and application practices are hazardous to bees.
- **Plant Growth Stage** The majority of bee kills result from applications applied to blooming crops or being allowed to drift onto blooming crops or weeds.
- **Relative Toxicity of the Chemical** Pesticides vary in their toxicity to honeybees. Insecticides that are moderately toxic to bees should be applied when bees are not foraging. Insecticides that are highly toxic to honey bees should not be applied to blooming crops when bees are present. Read the product label to determine toxicity to bees.
- **Choice of Formulation** Different formulations of the same pesticide vary in toxicity to bees.
- **Residual Action** Residual activity of insecticide is an important factor to consider in determining pollinator safety. In worst cases, some materials remain active for several months in the hives and prevent colonies from recovering.
- **Drift** Pesticide drift can cause significant bee poisoning if drift reaches adjacent flowering crops and weeds.
- **Temperature.** Low temperatures following treatment can cause insecticide residues to remain toxic much longer than if normal temperatures prevail. Conversely, if high temperatures occur during late evening or early morning, bees will more actively forage at these times.
- **Distance from Treated Fields** Most foraging activity occurs within one to two miles of the hive. However, during periods of pollen or nectar shortage, bees forage at greater distances.
- **Time of Application.** Most important factor is to control pests prior to bloom or after bloom is complete, when possible.

It is unlikely that all bee poisonings can be avoided; however, in most cases, knowing the hazards and maintaining effective communication can prevent bee losses.

Kelly System Q & A

Common questions on pesticide reporting



As mentioned in previous newsletters, the department is requiring all commercial applicators to submit pesticide application data online. Below are answers to some common questions that applicators have on the reporting system. The reporting site is linked from www.state.sd.us/doa/das.

Q. One of the selections under the heading Site Treated is Cropland - GMO. What does the GMO stand for?

A. GMO stands for "genetically modified organism" (GMO). The scientific community uses the term GMO to denote a living organism that has been genetically modified by inserting a gene from an unrelated species. Incorporation of genes from an unrelated species does not occur in nature through sexual reproduction. Various types of sophisticated technologies are used in the laboratory to accomplish this. Examples of GMOs are Roundup Ready corn and soybeans and Bt corn.

Q. What if I do not know if the crop is a GMO or not?

A. If you are unsure select Cropland – Non GMO.

Q. Under the heading Site Treated, I do not see a selection for fallow. Which selection should I choose?

A. You would select Non–Cropped – Private, if land were held privately. If it is public land, choose Non-Cropped – Public.

Q. At the bottom of the form under the heading Application Date; Month, Day and Year are listed as my choices. Am I supposed to report every application, every day?

A. No, you need not report every application, every day unless you want to do it that way. The reporting requirement is summarized by monthly applications. You could, however, report on a daily, weekly or monthly basis, you just have to have the information reported by the end of the year in order to keep your license.

Q. I'm a PCO and under the heading Crop/Commodity Treated, I cannot find anything that fits an application for termite control in a house. What should I choose?

A. You would choose None as there is no crop or commodity involved with this type of application.

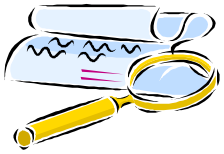
Q. I spray road ditches for weeds. Do I have to report my applications in acres sprayed?

A. No. In this case, there are two reporting options for that kind of application. If you track the application in acres or square feet choose Area. If you keep track of the application by the number of gallons of solution you applied choose Volume.

Helpful Hint: After you have made your selection from the dropdown box and are ready to move on to the next question be sure the last selection is not highlighted. If it is highlighted and you use the mouse wheel to try and move down the page the highlighted selection will change. It is best to click somewhere else on the page (that will deselect the last entry) and then use the wheel to move down the page. You are always able to check on all your entries and edit or delete them by selecting Review Your Applications at the bottom of the page and following the directions on the next screen.

If you have further questions on the pesticide reporting, please call the department at (605) 773-4432.

Drift Complaint Process



The South Dakota Department of Agriculture is required to investigate all pesticide damage complaints that are called in to the Department. Any person claiming damages from pesticide use must file the complaint within 30 days after the damage occurred. If a growing crop is damaged, the complaint must be filed before 25% of the crop has been harvested.

After receiving the complaint, the Ag Enforcement Specialist in Pierre assigns it to the field Ag Investigator who is closest to where the complaint originated. The investigator makes arrangements to meet with the complainant as soon as possible to start the investigation process. The investigator will ask the complainant the following questions:

- What was damaged?
- Did you see the actual application?
- Do you know who did the spraying?
- What were the weather conditions at the time of spraying?
- Did you do any spraying on your property? And if so, do you have any application records?

The investigator will next proceed to the damaged area, obtain foliage and soil samples, take photos of the area, and visually examine the area for a drift pattern. The investigator will also contact producers with adjoining land to document all spraying that took place around the damaged area. This includes the complainants spraying activities, private or commercial applications and any right-of-way applications made by the DOT, township or county weed board. Any potential respondent will also receive a copy of the original complaint form.

The investigator then sends in samples to the lab. Weather data is obtained from the weather station nearest to the complaint site for the purpose of checking weather information for all dates that spraying took place around the damaged area. After the investigator completes the investigation, all evidence gathered during the course of the investigation is forwarded to the Ag Enforcement Specialist in Pierre.

The department receives lab sample results within 60-90 days. After the lab sample results are received in Pierre, an Ag Specialist will review all the evidence gathered and recommend a course of action to pursue. An enforcement policy is followed to determine if a violation took place. Penalties may be warranted based on the outcome of the evidence gathered during the complaint investigation. The types of penalties that may be recommended are:

- No action, no evidence to support complainants allegations
- Warning letter
- Monetary fine
- Revocation of license

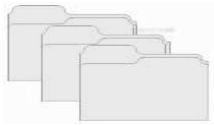
The final steps of the case, a committee of Pesticide Program Specialists review the case and the penalty recommendation. The initial penalty recommendation may be followed or can be changed by a consensus of the case review committee.

The Enforcement Specialist then sends out a determination letter to the respondent. The respondent can agree to the settlement terms of the letter or request a meeting in Pierre with the review committee if they feel an error was made or they have additional information that may help their position. The complainant will also be notified of the outcome of the case after it has been settled.

There is a considerable amount of time and expense involved in the investigation of pesticide drift and spill complaints by the Department of Agriculture and every effort is made to conduct a thorough and complete investigation.

If you have questions on how the process works you can obtain further information from the Ag Enforcement Specialist with the Department of Agriculture at 605-773-4432.

Recordkeeping Requirements



Private pesticide applicators applying restricted-use pesticides and all commercial pesticide applicators are required by law to keep records of their pesticide applications.

Pesticide recordkeeping has many benefits. It's the key to a successful integrated pest management program and it documents pesticide performance. Complete, accurate records can also aid you if you become involved in a drift or performance complaint.

Private Applicators

Private applicators are required to keep the following information:

- Brand or product name of RUP
- EPA registration number of RUP
- Total amount applied
- Size of the area treated
- Crop, commodity, product or site treated
- Location of the application
- Month, day and year of application
- Applicator's name and certification number

Federal law states that private applicators must complete their records no later than 14 days following the pesticide application and must be maintained for 2 years following the application. There is no required form. Any form (handwritten or on computer) is acceptable as long as the required data is included

More information as well as record examples can be found online at www.abs.sdstate.edu/plantsci/ext/pat/pestrecord.htm.

Commercial Applicators

Commercial applicators are required to keep the following information:

- Name and address of the person for whom the pesticide was applied
- Location of the application
- Pests treated
- Size of the area treated
- Month, day and year of application
- Person or firm who made the application
- Trade or brand name and common name of pesticide applied
- Company name appearing on the label
- Weather conditions at time of application, including wind and temperature
- Amount of pesticide applied
- Crop, commodity, or site treated
- Name and address of applicator

State law requires commercial applicators to complete their records by the close of each day and must be maintained for a period of 3 years. There is no required form or method for keeping Commercial Pesticide Applicator Records.

More information for commercial applicators can be found online at www.state.sd.us/doa/das/rec_poli.htm.

(Livestock Insecticide Use and Safety - continued from p. 2)

Follow these use guidelines for the most effective control of livestock pests.

- Use an integrated approach in applying insecticides, using different methods and rotating chemical families to avoid resistance. Look on the label for the common name of the active ingredient.
- Note any product that is not working in your operation and eliminate its use for several years.
- When using ear tags, put tags in both ears so flies are controlled on both sides of the animal's body.
- Take ear tags out when recommended by the manufacturer (usually in the fall) to avoid a resistance being built up due to low doses of the insecticide.
- Place dust bags and oilers where cattle are forced to use them to obtain feed or water.

Following these simple guidelines can keep you and your cattle safe.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Agricultural Services
Office of Agronomy Services
523 East Capitol – Foss Building
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3188

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ENFORCEMENT CASE UPDATE

Northeastern SD – An aerial applicator paid $1237 for drifting a fungicide into a farmyard, second offense.

Northeastern SD – An ag distributor paid $1100 for selling restricted use pesticides without a valid dealer's license.

Southeastern SD – A ground applicator paid $800 for an off-label application of a herbicide which severely damaged a corn field.

Southeastern SD – An ag supply company paid $400 to settle a violation for spilling a mini-bulk of herbicide that was not secured while being transported.

Western SD – A lawn care applicator paid $1100 for drifting onto a neighboring property and making the application without a valid applicator's license.