



ChemCert Connections

Residues Issue
September 2006



What's making news

- **Outcome of Weeds Seminar** The Weeds Society of NSW "Weeds – Woe to GO IV" Seminar was great! If you were unable to make it you should try and get a copy of the seminar papers. The discussion on Australia's weed risk assessment system was an eye opener. It seems that Australia's "weed management system" suffers the same symptoms as the national pesticide management system, very convoluted, too many stakeholders, duplication of effort and different regulatory systems. And conflict between farmers, land managers and environmental groups!
- **Call for input!!** From industry groups, trainers and assessors - Preparation of the Feb 2007 professional development workshop is underway. The program will focus on spray application skills and knowledge. There will also be a segment on marketing. Please forward your suggestions to aimie@chemcert.com.au.
- **ChemCert is seeking a P/T business / technical development officer** to assist the Executive Manager develop new products and expand ChemCert's business. For more info visit www.chemcert.com.au.
- **Other news.** On 7 June 2006, the Hon. Sussan Ley MP announced the new joint initiative between the APVMA and the DAFF. The new, joint initiative will focus on sharing information. Since the announcement, a Minor Use Steering Committee and a Minor Use Liaison Office (MULO) have been established. The Steering Committee brings together expertise from researchers, the chemical industry, state governments, the APVMA and the Department.
- **Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC)** is proposing a *National Framework for Chemicals Environmental Management "NChEM"* to improve the way environmental impacts of chemicals are managed in Australia. NChEM aims to ensure that environmental considerations are fully integrated into Australian chemical management systems, reduce the fragmentation and improve the streamlining of regulation and coordination efforts across the various levels of government.
- For more information and a copy of EPHC discussion paper go to the website www.ephc.gov.au.



Droplets

- ChemCert (NSW) seeks input from members for constitutional change.
- ChemCert (NSW) Executive Manager and Chairman met with a NSWFA delegation to discuss farm chemical training.
- ChemCert Australia Board met in August to discuss a joint national approach to technical development and a promotions package.



Statistics – Fruit & Veg Consumption

Domestic Consumption (Source: Lawrie Greenup)
97.6% of all fruit and vegetables consumed in Australia is homegrown, 2.4% is imported (Major suppliers being the USA and NZ). Australia, the USA and NZ have the same food safety QA standards.

USA Organic Farming (Source: Vegetables Australia)
Organically grown food amounted to \$1Billion in 1994 and is now worth an estimated \$20 Billion.



References & Resources

Freshmarkets on-line library

Visit <http://www.freshmarkets.com.au/> (go to the Library Tab) for a copy of the ANZFA Code and details and more information for food safety grower program

APVMA Export Slaughter Intervals and Withholding Periods of Chemicals

Sheep – valid from 11 September 2006
Cattle – valid from 5 September 2006
Crops Chemicals

This information can be downloaded from the APVMA website www.apvma.gov.au/residues/ESI.shtml. You can also find info on Maximum Residue Limits at www.apvma.gov.au/residues/mrl_standard.shtml.

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Food safety and residues in food

- There is increased national and international community concern over chemical residues in food produce. In addition to a number of "high profile" cases where international trade has been jeopardised by chemical residues, a recent article in Choice Magazine entitled "Pesticides in Fruit and Veg", highlights the different perceptions consumers have about pesticide residues in food.
- Controlling residues is important in all areas of food production but is particularly important in horticulture.
- Consumers are clearly keeping an eye on "clean green food". This, coupled with increasing demand for "organically grown" fruit and vegetables is why key industry leaders focus on consumers and encourage Australian producers to meet the highest consumer demands for consistent quality produce.

ChemCert Accreditation and QA Programs

- Quality farm chemical training and accreditation underpins the integrity of all on-farm quality assurance training programs. Programs such as Freshcare and other HCCAP based QA programs incorporate the principles of on-farm "best pesticide" management. ChemCert has been working very closely with HAL to ensure our training resources and reaccreditation programs meet the requirements of all fruit and vegetable growers. ChemCert and Freshcare now offer an on-farm combined assessment/audit for farmers seeking reaccreditation. The National Training Resource supports this pathway and the provision of useful take home tools and resource material assists producers meet the requirements of reaccreditation and the on-farm audit.

Residue Testing

There are numerous monitoring programs, conducted by

- Federal and State Government agencies such as the Australian National Residue Survey, Australian total dietary survey, NSW DPI testing program
- Industry eg FreshTest
- Private testing conducted on behalf of retailers such as Woolworths and Coles

Ways to keep residues below the MRL

- *Observe the withholding period*
- *Apply the right product*
- *Apply at the right rate*
- *Be aware of spray drift*
- *Avoid contaminated livestock feed*
- *Response to accidents appropriated*
- *Keep good records*

SUNNY OUTLOOK

It is important to note that over 95% of central market wholesalers have food safety and quality assurance programs in place to ensure that the product supplied to Australia's consumers is the healthiest and safest possible.

AND

Findings by the Australian Academy of Technology Science and Engineering found that residue surveys show that contamination of Australian food by pesticides is rare!



Useful Contacts

Chemical permits

- NSW Industry development officer Alison Anderson Ph: (02) 9746 1865
- AgAware Consulting Peter dal Santo Ph: (03) 5439 5916
- Chemical permits update refer to APVMA website

Residue Testing

- FreshTest – Martin Clark Ph: (02) 9764 3244



Diary Dates

- Henty Field Days 19th – 21st September
- Orange Field Days 17th – 19th October
- ChemCert (NSW) AGM – Sydney 23rd October
- ChemCert (NSW) Board Meeting - 4th December

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