



May 27, 2013

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

200-2221 Cornwall Street
Regina, Saskatchewan,
S4P 2L1

Attention: All RM Offices,

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada has the responsibility of registering and regulating pesticides in Canada. Before a pesticide can be registered it is reviewed by the PMRA to ensure it meets acceptable health and environmental standards. The Compliance Division with PMRA is, among other things responsible for monitoring the importation, sale and use of pesticides in Canada. The Compliance Division also undertakes enforcement actions when violations of the Federal Pest Control Products Act (PCPA) are detected.

Each year the PMRA engage in a large range of activities in order to maintain a presence with all major groups regulated under the PCPA. Through programs PMRA is able to gather knowledge related to their activities and behaviours. These programs also give the producers an opportunity to provide feedback to PMRA on their pest challenges and concerns.

We will be continuing with Strychnine inspections this year. There is a possibility that we may pay a visit to your office and engage in discussions regarding the handling and distribution of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate. The inspections for 2013 will be primarily on-farm inspections. We will be requesting cooperation in reviewing strychnine sales records to determine purchasers to contact.

In addition, many of you are aware of the large number of bee mortality's that happened last year in the Ontario region. In response to the 2012 bee mortality incidents, the PMRA is completing an evaluation of the 2012 incidents and has initiated a re-evaluation of the nitro-guanidine neonicotinoid pesticides used to treat seeds. Preliminary recommendations from the Agency suggest that mitigation measures could be employed to help reduce the exposure of pollinators to the dust generated when handling and planting treated seed.

The Pesticide Compliance Program is playing a role in communicating Pollinator Protection Best Management Practices (BMPs) to beekeepers and growers to help reduce exposure of pollinators to dust from treated seed. We ask that all of us play a role in communicating to stakeholders in our communities by posting and distributing a copy of the BMP's. These practices have been developed as a collaborative effort between PMRA and Provincial Apiculturist Specialists. A copy has been included with this email.

Lastly, we want to remind everyone of our Incident Reporting system in Health Canada. A link to the pesticide incident reporting section on the Health Canada site has been provided below. Examples of reportable incidents include any effects to humans, pets, farm animals and the environment with a pesticide or problems with pesticide containers. A copy of the poster has been included with this email or print quality versions can be ordered directly from PMRA, Health Canada.

Link to incident reporting procedure and poster:

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_fact-fiche/rpp-dplp/index-eng.php

Thank you for your cooperation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.