

> Obsolete pesticide collection campaign comes to Newfoundland

November 6, 2013, Toronto, ON – On November 6 and 7, farmers are invited to safely and responsibly dispose of their unwanted or obsolete agricultural pesticides.

The collection program is operated by CleanFARMS, an industry-led, national not-for-profit agricultural waste management organization and is supported by CropLife Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador's Department of Environment and Conservation.

"CleanFARMS is committed to collecting unwanted or obsolete agricultural pesticides in an environmentally responsible way, at no cost to farmers," says Barry Friesen, general manager of CleanFARMS.

Newfoundland's farmers have a long history of good stewardship practices. Since 1988 they have returned more than 3,700 kilograms of obsolete pesticides. Nationally, the program has collected more than 1.8 million kilograms of obsolete or unwanted pesticides for safe disposal since it began in 1998.

After collection, the pesticides are taken to a licensed waste management facility where they are disposed of through high temperature incineration.

The following two locations will be accepting obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides on the dates specified below from 9 am until 4 pm.

- Lewisporte Highway Depot – Wednesday November 6
— 6 km north of TransCanada/Route 340 intersection on Route 340
- Steel Mountain Highway Depot – Thursday November 7
— Service road 100 m east of Steele Mountain Ultramar Gas Bar

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> Backgrounder

The obsolete pesticide collection program was launched by industry in 1998 as part of its commitment to the responsible lifecycle management of its products. In 2010, CleanFARMS was formed to manage industry-funded agricultural waste management programs, including the obsolete pesticide collection program.

What are pesticides?

Pesticides are substances registered by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) that are used to control pest pressures, including fungi, insects and weeds, that can cause damage to crops.

What kinds of products are collected?

We collect all liquid and dry granular commercially labeled pesticides. They come in all sizes and types of containers from as small as 250 millilitres up to 500 litre totes. They can also include products delivered in multi-walled paper and plastic bags. The products are mainly for farm use but may also include obsolete pesticides from golf courses, commercial landscape operations and structural pest control.

Why do obsolete pesticides exist?

Farmers and applicators can generate obsolete pesticides for a number of different reasons, including:

- They may have saved product one year and decided to use a new product the next year;
- A farmer may have leftover pesticides from previous years that has become de-registered and no longer legal for use;
- Farm ownership can change leaving the new owner with leftover product on site;
- Farmers may start growing different crops that require different pest control products than what they currently have; and
- Pest pressures can change from when farmers first purchase products leaving them with unusable products leftover.

How are obsolete products handled and destroyed after they have been returned?

All products are safely disposed using specialized high-temperature incineration, which is the most environmentally responsible disposal option. The incineration facility that CleanFARMS normally uses is approved by Environment Canada and is located in northern Alberta. It is a world-class facility developed and built specifically for the management of hazardous waste.

Obsolete pesticides returned during the collection process are safely packed in leak-proof containers and transported by a licensed and insured hazardous waste hauler. When properly packaged and handled by trained professionals, these products do not pose a health and safety risk.

What safety measures are in place to manage potential spills?

CleanFARMS and its contractors have very detailed emergency response plans in place to manage any accidents or spills that may occur. Since the program began in 1998, there have not been any spills or accidents.