
From: Matt Pellerin <matt@treworgyorchards.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 12:24 PM
To: Patterson, Megan L (AGR) <Megan.L.Patterson@maine.gov>
Subject: Letter to the BPC

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Megan,

This is the finished version of my letter. Please submit this to the Board of Pesticide Control for their review.

Thanks,
Matt

I am writing today in response to what appears to be a crisis regarding pesticide registrations in the State of Maine. At the Board of Pesticide Control meeting that was held on Friday February 24th, it became clear that many products that Maine farmers rely on to produce food may not be available for the 2023 growing season. The following things were made clear during the meeting.

1. As of the writing of this letter, there are approximately 4000 materials that were registered in Maine last year that are not currently registered for 2023. After perusing a spreadsheet provided to me by the BPC on Friday, it seems that the registration status of agricultural pesticides is particularly dire. For an example, I compared a list of chemicals purchased and utilized annually on one diversified fruit and vegetable farm in central Maine, to the list of registered chemicals. The following materials used in 2022 had not yet been registered for 2023:

Fungicides:

Bravo
Manzate
Pristine
Switch
Vivando
Proline
Topsin M

Insecticides:

Assail
Danitol
Baythroid

Asana
Delegate
Mustang Maxx

Herbicides:

Credit
Chateau
Venue
Sandea

Bactericide:

Harbour

Growth Regulators:

Retain
Fruitone
Maxcell

This list of unavailable chemicals accounts for 88% of the typical pesticide order for this farm. That is 22 materials unavailable and 3 available in this example. This is well beyond simply pivoting application strategies and looking at different products to meet a pest management niche. The current situation represents a dysfunctional pest control situation for any IPM or conventional farm in the state. A lack of material options on this scale could be economically devastating, potentially resulting in significant crop damage/failure and significantly increased risk of pesticide resistance development.

2. There are two new requirements for chemical companies that wish to renew pesticide licenses for 2023. The first is an affidavit that attests to whether or not the product contains a PFAS. This is required by Maine State law.

The second new requirement is that the chemical companies must provide a Confidential Statement of Formula (CSF) for every product. This rule is not required under Maine law. The BPC has long had the authority to require a CSF from a registrant, but has never before made that a blanket requirement for all pesticide registration. Making a CSF submission a requirement for 2023 was a decision enacted at the discretion of the Board of Pesticide Control.

3. There was a representative for Rise and Croplife America present at the BPC meeting. He represented several pesticide manufacturing companies attempting to renew registrations in Maine. He stated the requirement to provide a CSF for every material was a "problem" and he asked that that requirement be waived.

Based on what occurred in Friday's BPC meeting and the current state of pesticide registration in Maine, I am requesting that the Board of Pesticide Control take emergency action to remove the requirement to provide CSF documents for 2023 pesticide registrations. There is no guarantee that this action will result in registration of necessary agricultural materials. However, in light of the

extreme situation the Maine agricultural industry is currently facing with regard to available pesticides, any action that can help at all should be pursued. Maine's farmers represent hundreds of families producing food safely and responsibly. Please do your part to protect this essential part of the Maine economic and social fabric.

Respectfully,

--

Matthew Pellerin

Agricultural Manager

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