# Abandoned Pesticide Program

A brief history of the Arkansas Agricultural Abandoned Pesticide Program

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# Establishment of the Program

 Arkansas's Abandoned Pesticide Program began with the passage of Act 1174 in 1999.

- The act established an Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board and charged the Arkansas State Plant Board with implementation of the program.
- The program was developed as a way for <u>farmers</u> to safely dispose of old or unwanted pesticides.

#### Who is Involved?

• The Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board is made up of members from The Arkansas State Plant Board, The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and Arkansas Farm Bureau.

# **Testing the Program**

• In the year 2000 Benton county in Northwest Arkansas was chosen as the test county.

• 31,154 pounds of unwanted pesticides were collected.

• Act 1130 of 2001required the pesticide manufacturers to pay a fee for each agricultural pesticide they register in Arkansas.

# **Addressing Concerns**

• The Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board feared the collections would cost more than was in the budget.

The farmers were afraid to trust regulatory agencies.

• These concerns were the foundation of the program.

## **Addressing Concerns**

- The concerns of the Advisory Board were addressed by conducting the collections on a county by county basis.
- The collection is promoted within the selected county.
- Inventory sheets are used to pre-determine intended submissions.

# **Producer Anonymity**

• The fears of the farmers were eased by the promise of anonymity.

• Farm Bureau is very important in helping with anonymity.

• Farm Bureau is a private company and is not subject to the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act (FOI).

## The Inventory Sheets

• The inventory sheets are submitted to Farm Bureau.

• The state agencies do not see the farmers' contact information.

- The inventory sheets are used to calculate the approximate cost of the collection.
- The hazardous waste contractor has access to the information when an on site pick up is required.

### **Early Collection Events**

• The first collection event after the passage of act 1130 of 2001 was not held until 2005.

The delay allowed funding to build up.

• The Advisory Board selected the Mississippi River delta region for the first collections.

These events were not as well received as hoped.

# **Early Lessons Learned**

· Lack of trust greatly impacted participation.

Time of year greatly influences turn out.

• Collections are new held in early Spring and late Fall.

### How Much?

• An inventory sheet was submitted listing 4,000 pounds of Calcium Arsenate.

• There was actually 40,000 pounds of Calcium Arsenate.

 This greatly helped promote the program in the farming community.

#### **Collection Events**

2006 - Nine Collection Events.

2007- Six Collection Events.

2008- Ten Collection Events.

2009- Twelve Collection Events

• Over 664,000 pounds of unwanted pesticides collected to date.

#### Goals

• The main goal is to hold at least one collection in every county in Arkansas.

• Some of the early counties will be revisited as funding allows.

• After the delta our plan is to visit the Arkansas River Valley areas.

The program is for farmers only.























#### ABANDONED PESTICIDE COLLECTION SUMMARY

#### AGRI-REGIONS

Arkansas River Valley

Boston Mountains / Ozark Highlands

Delta

Boston Mountains / Ozark Highlands



