

PROGRAM SUPPORT

APHIS Registration and Reregistration Status

NWRC's Registration Unit is responsible for coordinating the development of data required by EPA and FDA to maintain the registration of current APHIS vertebrate control products or develop future product registrations. Additionally, the Registration Unit provides technical assistance and information to personnel located at WS State offices and to other individuals and groups.

Registration and Reregistration Status of APHIS Vertebrate Pesticides—With the submission of reformatted zinc phosphide labels and required data, APHIS has fulfilled all of the reregistration requirements imposed by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, reauthorized by Congress in 1988 for all active ingredients registered by APHIS. APHIS currently has eight active ingredients registered with EPA. These include an avian repellent (methiocarb), an avicide (DRC-1339), two rodenticides (strychnine and zinc phosphide), a fumigant (a gas cartridge that contains carbon and sodium nitrate), and two predicides (compound 1080 for use in the Livestock Protection Collar and sodium cyanide for use in the M-44).

Gas Cartridge, M-44, Livestock Protection Collar—All reregistration requirements have been met for these products. Gas cartridges are registered in two sizes for rodent and predator burrow fumigation. The M-44 is registered for controlling coyotes and wild dogs, Arctic and other species of fox, and skunks. The Livestock Protection Collar is the only registered product containing sodium monofluoroacetate. It is approved for controlling coyote depredation of



sheep and goats in several States. The user's manual and restrictions information is available on the NWRC website at www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/nwrc.

DRC-1339—APHIS has five approved labels for DRC-1339, for controlling corvids, gulls, pigeons, blackbirds, grackles, cowbirds, and starlings that damage agricultural crops, threaten public health, or prey upon threatened or endangered species. The rice and sunflower industries recently funded a confined rotational crop study with DRC-1339 to evaluate the potential uptake of DRC-1339 residues by rotational crops. Using data from this research, APHIS has submitted an application to EPA requesting that growers be allowed to harvest crops from the small acreage used in blackbird baiting programs. EPA's decision on this request is expected in FY 2001.

Strychnine—All reregistration requirements have been met for APHIS products containing strychnine. No new-use requests or cancellations occurred during FY 2000. All four registered products are for underground use to control pocket gophers. NWRC also serves as the coordinator of the Strychnine Consortium, which was assembled to generate funds to meet data requirements for all technical products.

Zinc Phosphide—APHIS maintains three zinc phosphide registrations for use on a variety of rodent species. All requirements specified in the 1998 Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) have been met. An application has been submitted to EPA requesting use of zinc phosphide to control deer mice around structures and to allow use on airports to reduce the rodent populations that encourage raptors near runways. This new use will also provide another tool in preventing the transmission of hantavirus from mice to humans. As with strychnine, NWRC coordi-

nates the Zinc Phosphide Consortium to generate funds for data development of technical and end-use zinc phosphide products.

Methiocarb (Mesurol)—APHIS successfully applied for a new use for methiocarb, a very effective avian repellent. The new registration allows the use of methiocarb-treated hard-boiled eggs to protect the eggs of threatened or endangered species from predation by crows and ravens. Instead of preying on the eggs of the endangered bird species, crows and ravens eat the treated eggs and are repelled from the nesting sites of the endangered bird species.

Acetaminophen—During 1999, APHIS obtained a 3-year Emergency Use Registration from EPA to use acetaminophen as a toxicant to control the BTS on Guam. This Emergency Use Permit provides another tool to prevent the spread of the BTS to other Pacific islands. Because of the success of this compound in reducing snake numbers in baited areas, NWRC staff began during 2000 assembling the data and registration package required by EPA to support a full registration for its continued use in the Guam program.

FDA Wildlife Drug Authorizations—APHIS has five Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) authorizations with FDA that allow interstate transport of the compounds for experimental purposes. During 2000, the NWRC Registration Unit provided 12 semiannual reports and project summaries to FDA for the INAD's. Two of the INAD's are for the immunocontraceptive materials, gonadotrophin releasing hormone (GnRH) and PZP. Studies with GnRH- and PZP-vaccinated white-tailed deer have shown both injected vaccines to be effective in reducing fawning rates. Efforts are under way to develop oral vaccine delivery mechanisms to make the techniques more appropriate for field use.

During 2000, a new INAD was received to test 20, 25 diazocosterol as a reproductive inhibitor for wildlife. Recent research with the Coturnix quail, rats, and prairie dogs has demonstrated the contraceptive potential of diazocosterol. However, further experimentation with the formulation and method of administration is required. Research will continue to determine the feasibility of using diazocosterol in seasonally breeding rodents.

The remaining two INAD's are for the immobilizing agents propiopromazine HCl and alpha-chloralose. Alpha-chloralose continues to be used experimentally for capturing and relocating problem birds in urban settings, such as parks and zoos. Propiopromazine HCl (in the Tranquilizer Trap Device) is used in conjunction with soft-catch traps and has been effective in minimizing injury to trapped predators throughout the Western United States and to feral dogs on Guam.

Regulatory Assistance Provided to Federal, State, and Nongovernmental Organizations—WS program personnel or other government and nongovernment cooperators often contact the Registration Unit for information when preparing environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, and Section 7 consultations with FWS. NWRC is the principal supplier of these data to the WS program and its cooperators. Often, responses to these inquiries entail preparing unique summaries and interpretations of NWRC research. More than 100 significant requests were handled in 1999 by NWRC; most required unique responses.

NWRC staff is providing technical assistance to a consortium of State, Federal, and nongovernmental organizations in Hawaii by developing a registration package and risk assessment for registering aerially delivered anticoagulant rodenticide (diphacinone) to control rats in conservation areas. These efforts are designed to lower rat populations and reduce rat predation on forest nesting birds. Submission of this registration request is expected in 2002.

Registration Information Transfer—With the cooperation of headquarters staff, the Registration Unit completed a Webpage (www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/nwrc/RegUnit.htm) that provides copies of APHIS vertebrate pesticide labels. This service will provide WS operation staff access to the most current EPA-approved labels for all APHIS products as well as descriptions of current research activities on products authorized by the FDA under INADs.

The Registration Unit continues to maintain three pesticide and drug registration data bases. The Pesticide Registration File data base provides information on the status of individual data requirements for all APHIS vertebrate pesticides. A cross-referenced bibliographic data base has been developed that contains all known citations of published and unpublished information on 22 pesticides and drugs of interest to the WS program.

In addition, NWRC personnel continue to develop a DRC (Denver Research Center) Number database. This searchable database contains DRC numbers, chemical names, and Chemical Abstracts Service registry numbers for 6,800 chemicals that were screened for toxicity and repellancy between 1960 and 1987 by NWRC for pesticidal properties. Final preparations are under way to publish the contents of this database. Additionally, the entire database will be posted to the NWRC Website in a searchable format. Both the publication and Website are expected to be available during 2001.