

Ag Chemicals

Ag chemicals

2,4-D Drift

06 Mar EC That the Association pursue with vigour:

- a) continued registration of 2 4-D ester formulations; and
- b) appropriate solutions to management of 2,4-D and other phenoxy herbicides.

Ammonium Nitrate

04 Oct EC That all costs associated with licensing, security checks, and the imposition of changes to farm infrastructure for the storage of chemicals such as ammonium nitrate be paid for by government.

That the Association petition the Australian fertiliser manufacturers, Orica and HiFert, to reconsider their decision not to retail ammonium nitrate ("Nitram") to the agricultural industry of Australia.

Chemical Re-accreditation

08 Mar EC That the Association actively encourage and resource the development and implementation of flexible delivery of training and accreditation (this may include the use of computers, the internet, home study and/or recognition of prior learning) of members undertaking courses provided through the Association's training and education unit.

Chemical Storage/Disposal

AC01: That the Association seek that chemical companies adopt improved arrangements in relation to the marketing and distribution of agricultural chemicals, including:

- (a) that any chemical containers be designed to ensure that they are easy to pour;
- (b) the provision of water resistant labelling on all chemical containers;
- (c) the provision of manufacturing date and batch number in clearly legible lettering; and
- (d) wherever possible, product offered as a water soluble concentrate rather than in large containers.

Community Health

AC 95: That the Association closely monitor the agricultural chemicals conflict issue in particular where community health concerns are raised and:

- (a) make representations to government to maintain use of currently authorised chemicals;
- (b) ensure government departments provide relevant information;
- (c) work to have voluntary management plans accepted by all participants.

Container Safety Standards

AC 97 That the Association press the chemical companies to standardise containers to international standards enabling better and safer pouring methods.

Dangerous Goods Code

05 Oct EC That the Association join with the National Farmers' Federation and Avcare in expressing to the National Transport Commission its strong opposition to the proposed 7th Edition of the Australian Dangerous Goods Code due to the onerous and unnecessary cost implications that it would impose.

DrumMUSTER

05 AC That the Association lobby the DrumMUSTER organisation to accelerate its efforts to provide a more timely and accessible service to farmers in all areas.

Farm Chemical User Training

05 AC That the Association support a national industry based chemical user accreditation process, based on the level of associated risk for users of agricultural and veterinary chemicals that is recognised across all states and industries.

05 May EC That the Association facilitate pathways for a chemical and pesticide training accreditation course for its members at a more competitive rate.

08 Oct EC: That the Association lobby for chemical accreditation and the farm safety course be provided to every student enrolled in agricultural based courses/degrees.

05 AC That the Association make a concerted effort to assist farmers east of the Great Dividing Range to comply with pesticide user training by August 2005, and closely evaluate its position to facilitate this training in a practical manner and at a discount cost.

05 AC That the Association seek agricultural chemical courses be made more streamlined without compulsory refresher courses.

Farm Chemical User Training

AC 99 That the Association:

- (a) support the introduction of a ChemCert accredited groundrig spray operators course and an advanced module for the National Farmers Chemicals User's Programme; and
- (b) actively promote and encourage farmers and contractors to undertake such a course.

08 Mar EC That the Association accept the inclusion of fumigation elements within existing farm chemical user accreditation to allow the on-farm use of aluminium phosphide for the control of stored grain pests, vertebrate and invertebrate pests

04 Oct EC That the Association foreshadows the development of a new competency for agricultural fumigation that will be incorporated into existing national training packages for agriculture and horticulture. This competency will be developed in conjunction with ChemCert and the Horticulture and Agricultural Chemical Committees. Once this competency is in place, the Association in conjunction with other rural stakeholders will seek recognition in legislation of this competency as a more appropriate standard for the certification of users of agricultural fumigants.

AC 00 That the Association support, subject to the development of an acceptable, cost effective design, a chemical user accreditation scheme which may:

- (a) accredit purchasers of agricultural chemicals;
- (b) accredit those applying agricultural chemicals;
- (c) allow accreditation for five years

AC 95; 00 Feb GC Reaffirmed

That the Association:

- (a) encourage attendance by its members at farm chemical user training courses, and that those courses be conducted by ChemCert approved trainers; and
- (b) investigate funding arrangements with a view to minimising the costs of the course.

Farmers Rights to Use Agricultural Chemicals

96 Oct GC That the Association supports aerial spraying carried out in accordance with industry best practice.

AC 97 That the Association promotes the rights of farmers to use agricultural and veterinary chemicals provided -

- a (i) they are used in accordance with label directions and industry best practice; and
- (ii) they are used in a manner which recognises responsibility towards neighbours, the environment, consumers, employees and themselves;
- (b) recognises the high risk of chemical trespass arising from the use of aerial spraying and accept a need for such usage to be tightly controlled, in the first instance by comprehensive industry best practice guidelines;
- (c) continue in its policy formulation to consider the interests of all agricultural industries and of the implications of those industries of any policy change;
- (d) continue to promote best practice in regard to farm chemical use in all industries, including the voluntary acceptance by them of appropriate quality assurance systems;
- (e) accept that industry best practice, including QA systems, need be developed by each industry, and be specific to the operations of, and risk posed by, those industries;
- (f) continue to support the principle of industry self regulation except where an industry fails to self regulate its operations threaten the community, the environment or other industries.

00 Feb GC That the Association promotes the rights of farmers to use agricultural and veterinary chemicals provided that they are used with due care

Health Surveillance

95 Feb GC: That Association oppose mandatory health surveillance for users of organophosphate pesticides

Intractable Wastes

The Association seeks that:

- (a) Australia's stockpile of intractable waste should be destroyed.
- (b) adequate protocols for the scheduling of compounds as intractable wastes be developed, incorporating the adequacy of disposal criteria.
- (c) risk assessment comparisons be made of total management systems.
- (d) any integrated waste management plan recommended for implementation must have rigorous ongoing monitoring procedures, community consultation and review programmes.
- (e) Government funding of research into intractable waste disposal methods should be continued at an adequate level.
- (f) any further developments in the field of waste management should be part of an integrated programme which entails the avoidance of waste generation for off-site disposal, the minimisation of unavoidable generation, recycling and destruction in-line, on site of waste.
- (g) intractable wastes and any industrial or communal wastes (whether intractable or chemicals no longer required) stored in rural areas should be immediately collected for storage in a centralised containment area prior to destruction.

Intractable Wastes

(h) all community based chemical recalls should be funded, through appropriate environmental protection agencies, by the public purse.

Locust Chemical Control

04 Oct EC That the Association investigate the future environmental guidelines, manufacture, purchase and OH&S risk factors of Fenithrothion EC as the major weapon against plague locusts

Notification of Agricultural chemical use

03 Oct EC That the Association supports the voluntary notification of neighbours of pesticide use in agricultural settings, which encourage keeping neighbours informed of pesticide use, where requested, and opposes any mandatory notification of pesticide use to neighbours except when required as a condition of a chemical registration.

Principles

In relation to Agricultural chemicals, NSW Farmers' Association believes:

- (a) The availability of registered agricultural chemicals should be continued.
- (b) The research and implementation of biological control systems and integrated pest management systems should be continued.
- (c) The establishment of a national, voluntary, self-regulatory scheme for accrediting primary producers in the use and application of farm chemicals is supported.
- (d) There should be no automatic extension of patent for agricultural and veterinary chemicals and proprietary rights for all chemicals and new uses of chemicals under patent should be rejected.
- (e) There should be a chemical register compiled detailing toxicity residue levels and long-term effects to agriculture.
- (f) The withholding period on all agricultural and veterinary chemical containers should be displayed, giving significance to the location, size and colouring of the lettering.
- (g) The Federal Government should make available sufficient resources for the expedient examination and registration of chemicals, thus ensuring the effectiveness of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals legislation.
- (h) Agriculture should be exempt from the proposed Occupational Health and Safety Hazardous Substances Regulations.
- (i) Stock and station agents should be able to sell the appropriate penicillin products for the eradication of footrot, dependent upon production of a prescription from a veterinary surgeon.
- (j) Companies producing agricultural herbicides and insecticides should supply these chemicals in bulk containers and provide reusable containers which can be refilled by farmers.
- (k) Companies should use non-water soluble plastic-type labels on their containers, and the instructions on the containers should describe the contents and their use in plain English and be clearly visible and legible.
- (l) A national approach should be formulated to draw up sensible guidelines for pesticide application at the rural/urban interface.
- (m) All chemical containers, both plastic and metal, should be indelibly marked to show ALL the contents of the container, as well as a number, which could be used as a manufacturer's reference point in the event that the label is lost or obliterated.
- (n) Chemical containers should be standardised to permit the use of standard chemical probes.
- (o) that all chemical manufacturers should incorporate in their packaging a tamper-free (or sealed) container lid.

Registration of Agricultural Chemicals

AC 95: That the Association insist that during registration of Agricultural Chemicals the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) take into account the possible use of crops or stubble for grazing or feedstuff and set withholding periods accordingly.

AC 04: That the Association lobby the State Government to have Greenguard made available free of charge to landholders in areas where existing chemicals cannot be used because of the population densities, as a matter of urgency.

Test Data Protection

98 Feb GC That the Association support test data protection for agricultural and veterinary chemicals, where the data has been prepared in support of registration of agricultural and veterinary chemicals. The protection should:

- (a) apply to products of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical (NSW) Act 1994 and excludes genetically modified organisms;
- (b) apply to the mandatory data required by the APVMA to support registration or continuance of registration;
- (c) apply for the following periods:
 - (i) for a new active constituent of an agricultural or veterinary chemical not previously registered in Australia a period of 10 years;
 - (ii) for a major new product, formulation or use, of an existing active constituent a period of 10 years for agricultural chemicals and 3 years for veterinary chemicals;

Test Data Protection

(iii) for data related to chemical reviews of agricultural and veterinary chemicals a period of 5 years.

The NSW Pesticide Act

AC 03 That the Association seek that the administration of the NSW Pesticides Act 1999 be returned to NSW Agriculture.

AC 97 That the Association strongly oppose any pesticide regulation which further erodes farmers' rights to use agricultural chemicals and which adopts additional regulatory or restrictive controls on chemicals that have satisfied the registration requirements of the APVMA.

Underground Petroleum Storage Systems

09 Mar EC That the NSW Farmers' Association seek:

- a. An extended amnesty period to remove or upgrade underground fuel tanks;
- b. Financial assistance to remove, maintain or upgrade underground fuel tanks to a standard approved by the NSW Government.