

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES
CHARLES BRONSON, COMMISSIONER
OPERATION CLEANSWEEP PROGRESS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2005 - 2006



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BUREAU OF COMPLIANCE MONITORING
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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-1650

OPERATION CLEANSWEEP

Collection of Canceled, Suspended, and Unusable Pesticides

Progress Report for Fiscal Year 2005 - 2006

A Cooperative Project Involving:

**Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
University of Florida - Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences
& the Florida Cooperative Extension Service
United Agri Products, Inc.
The Central Florida Regional Planning Council**

**Certified Pest Control Operators
Florida Citrus Mutual
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
Florida Farm Bureau
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association
Florida Pest Management Association
Florida Tomato Committee
Florida Turf Grass Association
Florida Forestry Association
Florida Peanut Producers Association
Florida Soybean Producers Association
Florida Landscape Maintenance Association**

**Progress Report - Operation Cleansweep
Fiscal Year 2005-2006
Collection of Cancelled, Suspended, Unusable Pesticides**

Introduction

Pesticides that can no longer be used as intended must be disposed of properly to prevent pollution of soil and water resources and unacceptable exposures to humans and wildlife. Pesticides become unusable as a result of regulatory action (cancellation or suspension of registered uses), or as a result of impairment of the product itself while in storage - such as expired shelf life, crystallization of a liquid in cold temperatures, or solidification of a dust formulation. Pesticide end-users may also no longer have a use for the pesticide, even if it is in usable condition.

Pesticide users face difficult choices when dealing with the unusable products - proper disposal may involve high costs or difficult regulatory requirements. When faced with an amount of unusable product, the easiest solution is generally to keep it in storage. However, long term storage presents a risk as well. Containers may leak, break or otherwise degrade. Property ownership changes and stored products may be acquired by people who are unaware of how to handle them. Labels deteriorate and become difficult to read, thus leaving the contents unidentifiable and unusable. Additionally, the threat of exposures to employees, contact with surrounding communities, and releases to the environment through soil, surface water or air, are other potential hazards associated with long term storage.

In order to address this problem in Florida, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (DACS) have teamed with the University of Florida's Institute of Food & Agricultural Science, Florida agricultural marketing groups and pesticide user groups to develop and implement "Operation Cleansweep," a program for collection and proper disposal of cancelled, suspended, and unusable pesticides (CSUP). Following a 1995 statewide collection of 70,000 pounds of lead arsenate, these agencies and user groups were able to conduct several small scale CSUP collections in a four county pilot project (1996-1997). One additional collection was also held in 1998. These efforts resulted in a collection of a total of 52,000 pounds of CSUP materials from more than 220 participants.

In State Fiscal Year (FY) 2000-2001, DEP received funding as part of the General Appropriations Act to start an ongoing pesticide collection program. This program, Operation Cleansweep, was funded by an appropriation from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund at a level of \$300,000 for FY 2000-2001. A total of 235,644 pounds of CSUP material was collected from 374 participants in ten one-day collection events. In FY 2001-2002, the program was funded for \$300,000 and a total of 224,000 pounds of CSUP was collected from 357 participants. In FY 2002-2003, DEP received funding by an appropriation from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund at a level of \$200,000. A total of 126,235 pounds of CSUP material was collected from 145 participants.

In FY 2003-2004, DEP again received funding by an appropriation from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund at a level of \$100,000. In addition, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council was awarded a FEMA grant, administered through the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) which totaled \$225,000. This funding was used in conjunction with that from the State of Florida totaling \$325,000. A total of 250,984 pounds of CSUP material was collected from 207 participants. In FY 2004-2005, DEP received funding by an appropriation from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund at a level of \$100,000. 78,887 pounds of CSUP's were collected in Florida from 55 different participants. In FY 2005-2006, DEP received funding by an appropriation from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund at a level of \$100,000. A total of 89,000 pounds of CSUP's were collected in Florida from 104 different participants. As of May 19, 2006 there are requests from 14 Florida counties needing pickups next year (See attached map of Cleansweep Requests for Assistance for 2006-2007).

Program Organization & Implementation

Operation Cleansweep continued with a Steering Committee composed of representatives from the DACS, DEP, the University of Florida Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, Florida Farm Bureau Federation, Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association, Florida Citrus Mutual, Florida Pest Control Association, Florida Landscape Maintenance Association, Certified Pest Control Operators of Florida, Turf Grass Association, and Florida Nurserymen & Growers Association.

The collection program is open to pesticide end-users from the agricultural, nursery, golf course, greenhouse, and pest control industries. Businesses in these industries can dispose of cancelled, suspended, and other-wise unusable pesticides free-of charge through this program. Pesticide distributors and retailers can participate in the program by paying the contract price (price-per-pound) of \$1.12 for CSUP disposal. The Cleansweep Steering Committee has agreed to allow government/public agencies, that call for Cleansweep services, to be put on the list, but will be placed in a low priority category. If Cleansweep funds remain when all private agricultural entities that were on the list have received service, governmental/public agencies will be serviced at the following rate: The first 500 pounds of CSUP will be managed utilizing Cleansweep funds. If more CSUP, over the initial 500 pounds, exists, the agency requesting service will be responsible for paying for the management of this “excess” material at the contracted rate. Additional requests will be handled on a case by case basis, based on the degree of eminent danger to public health and safety and the potential for environmental harm.

The Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) asked the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS) to handle contracting and oversight of the project due to its familiarity with the pesticide end-user community. FDACS issued an Invitation to Bid for a contractor to collect and properly dispose of the pesticides collected. Prospective contractors were required to bid on the basis of site safety and personal protection, collection, bulk packaging, transport, and disposal of the collected materials. Bids were received from four licensed hazardous waste contractors, and for FY 2004-2005 EQ Florida, Inc. (f.k.a. US liquids of Florida, Inc.) of Tampa, Florida, was selected as the contractor, with a bid of \$1.12 per pound cost for all collected materials. The contract was extended through FY 2006.

Under the terms of the contract, EQ Florida, Inc. provided all materials and services for collection, packaging, transport and disposal of the materials collected. Pesticides collected were handled under federal and state hazardous waste regulations applicable to the Universal Waste Rule and for the purposes of the program, DEP became the generator.

Members of the Steering Committee notified their membership as to the availability of the program. DEP maintained a web site that provided up-to-date information on the program.

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides/pages/20052006Results.htm>. Additionally, DACS made available a toll-free phone line specifically for people to call in for assistance in getting their pesticides picked up.

Collection Methods

Collection methods remained similar to that of last year in that the majority of the pesticides were collected at the end-user's establishment. Randomly, at each site pick up, staff from the Department provided oversight and support. The contractor identified, weighed and characterized for disposal, all pesticides collected. Then, under the requirements of the Universal Waste Rule, packed the pesticides for transport and final disposal. As part of the operation, Department staff distributed literature on safe pesticide handling and storage, and conducted a short interview with the participants to obtain information helpful in planning future Operation Cleansweep projects.

Results & Participants

This year's collection was a success. The statewide participation count was 104. This number represents ten different categories of pesticide users. Over 89,000 pounds of CSUP's were safely collected, transported out of the state of Florida and properly disposed of, thereby significantly reducing the threat of chemical accidents, public health and safety hazards to humans and livestock, or contamination of soil, surface water, or groundwater.

Participant Survey Percentage (out of 104 participants)

Golf Course	19%	Farming & Row-crop Farms	16%
Municipality	8%	Pest Control Operations	25%
Nursery	15%	Citrus	20%
Turf/Landscape	0%	Aquatic Applicators	0%
Veterinarians	0%	Parks	1%

A large part of the success of this program is due to the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Agriculture Extension Service. A majority of the participants stated in their surveys that they were made aware of the Operation Cleansweep program through local extension meetings and information bulletins that were mailed out. A copy of the Operation Cleansweep bulletin is attached at the end of this report.

Additionally, the Department would like to thank Mike Whitten of United Agri Products. Mike provided assistance to this program by connecting many commercial growers with Operation Cleansweep in Tallahassee so that they could sign up for pick up. Additionally, United Agri Products provided our participants with a temporary drop-off location which was extremely helpful.

Many thanks to Jack Price and Raoul Clarke of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for their knowledge and assistance with hazardous waste laws and regulations. Francie Stoutamire deserves much praise for the tiring maintenance and design additions of the webpage that details the history, progress and status of the Operation Cleansweep program. Additionally, Glen Perrigan, DEP, and the county small generator coordinators that do the site visits to verify that small quantity generators are properly managing their hazardous waste, helped to promote Operation Cleansweep. Irene Gleason, DEP, and the county household hazardous waste coordinators that run the county household hazardous waste collection programs, also assisted in program promotion at the county level. Their eagerness to assist in many ways to help the program is greatly appreciated.

The author wishes to thank all of the Agriculture Inspectors and Supervisors within the Bureau of Compliance Monitoring who assisted in the field throughout the State, for their on-site supervision of the pick ups and their assistance to many landowners with pesticide problems in the field. Also, thank you to the Field Supervisors for their patience and cooperation during the fast-paced collection season.

This report was prepared by Kim Hainge, Environmental Specialist III, Operation

Cleansweep Project Manager, Pesticide Compliance Office, Bureau of Compliance Monitoring, Division of Agricultural Environmental Services, of the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. The report was based on the reports compiled and designed by Mr. Keith Myhre. Mr. Myhre's unfailing help and broad knowledge of the program, pesticides and hazardous waste management was invaluable.



