



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

**2010**  
**Waste Pesticide Collection Program**  
**Legislative Report**  
March 15, 2011

**Serving Minnesota Farms,  
Businesses  
and  
Households**

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This report has been prepared by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and is submitted to the Minnesota legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture finance, pursuant to 2009 Laws of Minnesota, Chapter 94, Article 1, Section 51.

The report is for the calendar year 2010.

In some cases regional entities of multiple counties have been formed to manage waste recycling and hazardous waste disposal, including pesticide disposal. For ease of reading, this report will refer to “counties” in place of the longer but more precise phrase “counties and regional entities”.

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## PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Waste Pesticide Collection Program was initiated by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in 1990 to provide an environmentally sound option for farmers and ag businesses for the disposal of unwanted, banned or out of condition pesticides. This avenue of disposal was necessary for agricultural waste pesticides because County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facilities, managed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, traditionally only accepted residential or nonagricultural (nonag) waste pesticides from households.

The MDA has paid for the disposal, supplies and transportation costs of any waste pesticides collected through county HHW facilities since the mid 1990's. This arrangement was formalized through Cooperative Agreements between MDA and participating counties beginning in 2004.

Beginning in 2008, the MDA has provided reimbursement to participating counties for reasonable overhead and advertising costs associated with any waste pesticides collected at their facilities. The MDA continues to conduct both ag and nonag waste pesticide collections in counties that have chosen not to partner with the MDA via a Cooperative Agreement to collect waste pesticides as directed by the legislation.

To date, over 4,600,000 pounds of waste pesticides have been safely removed from Minnesota's environment.

Minn. Statute Chapter 18B.065, Subd. 3(b) states that the MDA must report by March 15<sup>th</sup> each year:

- A.** Each instance of a refusal to collect waste pesticide or the assessment of a fee to a pesticide end user;
- B.** Waste pesticide collection information including a discussion of the type and quantity of waste pesticide collected by the commissioner and any entity collecting waste pesticide under "cooperative agreements" with the state during the previous calendar year;
- C.** A summary of waste pesticide collection trends;
- D.** Any corresponding program recommendations.



## A. REFUSAL OR FEES:

- The MDA refused no waste pesticide in 2010.
- MDA knows of no refusal in any county, under Cooperative Agreement or not under a Cooperative Agreement, to accept waste pesticides.
- The MDA knows of no fee having been assessed by any county to a pesticide end user who offered pesticide waste for disposal, whether or not the county was under Cooperative Agreement with the MDA. MDA has not assessed such fees.

## B. PROGRAM EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Cooperative Agreements with Minnesota Counties:

- MDA has cooperative agreements with 62 of Minnesota's 87 counties. Fifty (50) counties collect both nonagricultural (nonag) and agricultural (ag) waste pesticides and 12 counties collect only nonag waste pesticides. (See Figure 3)
- The MDA sponsored an additional twenty-one (21) waste pesticide collections in the spring of 2010 in counties that did not agree to collect nonag waste pesticides.
- The MDA sponsored an additional thirty-seven (37) waste pesticide collections in the summer and fall of 2010 in counties that did not agree to collect ag waste pesticides.

### **C. TRENDS:**

- The amount of ag waste pesticide collected has continued to decrease resulting in more costly MDA sponsored collection events. MDA collections are more costly due to separate fixed contractor mobilization charges that are not dependent on the amount of waste pesticide collected.
- The amount of nonag waste pesticide collected continues to increase resulting in higher disposal costs.
- A high percentage of nonag pesticides brought to collections by homeowners are useable products.
- More homeowners purchase and use ready-to-use / premixed pesticide products that contain high water content thus adding to the total weight of collected nonag waste pesticides.
- Several counties that currently collect only nonag waste pesticides have indicated they will collect both ag and nonag waste pesticides in 2011 as they observed the continuing low amounts of ag waste pesticide being received at MDA collections in their respective counties.
- The overall decrease in application rates for ag pesticides, due to new product and equipment technologies, is a factor in the declining amounts of ag waste pesticides offered for disposal.
- The increase in acreage planted to Round-up Ready crops is a factor in the decrease in the type and amount of ag waste pesticides offered for disposal because more growers are now only applying Round-up (glyphosate type) herbicide.
- A consistent statewide trend is that every year more county residents utilize their local county recycling facilities to also routinely dispose of household hazardous waste and/or other recycling materials.
- There continues to be little change in the lack of understanding by homeowners of why MDA is conducting separate waste pesticide collections (because the county isn't).
- The average homeowner continues to not distinguish or care who is responsible for management of household hazardous waste materials. Homeowners simply want a convenient location to drop-off their household hazardous waste.
- Even though the MDA continues to encourage counties to participate in MDA's program, the number of remaining counties that have chosen to participate has remained the same.

## KEY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Waste Pesticide Collection is paid by a surcharge on all pesticide products.
- Minnesota continues to offer collection opportunities for ag waste pesticides every other year and nonag waste pesticides every year in every county regardless of the amount collected or demand.
- Minnesota continues to collect at least 250,000 pounds of waste pesticide per year.
- Since 2005, more nonag waste pesticide has been collected each year than ag waste pesticide. And in all but one year (2009) the amount of nonag waste pesticide greatly exceeded the amount of ag waste pesticide collected.
- Homeowners continue to bring other household hazardous waste (HHW) materials to MDA collections, but not waste pesticides. The MDA has no means to accept these other materials. This results in the homeowner having to make a separate later trip to their county facility.
- MDA's ability to tailor a level of service that is sufficient enough and cost effective based on the needs of individual counties continues to be restricted because of the statutory language in 18B.065 subd.2 (b) requiring MDA to provide a disposal opportunity *each year in each county* for nonag pesticides. In some counties the high frequency of required collections has continued to yield very low amounts of waste pesticides.
- Overall collection costs increase substantially when participant numbers are low at MDA collections. This is due in large part to the cost of contractor mobilization and additional transportation charges. Conversely, collection costs are lowest when a county collects ag and nonag waste pesticides.
- Nonag waste pesticides continue to comprise approximately 3% of the total household hazardous waste stream.
- The continued lack of total participation of counties has made it very difficult to administer a statewide waste pesticide collection program in an efficient and cost effective manner and to perform long range program planning since the data does not represent the entire state.
- MDA's ability to cost effectively manage statewide ag and nonag waste pesticide collections continues to be greatly influenced by:
  1. The wide variation between county programs.
  2. The level of discretion some counties allow program staff in the partnership decision.
  3. The lack of oversight by MDA regarding county facilities and the management thereof.

4. The level of participation by counties that can vary depending on changes in county funding, staffing and infrastructure.

- In the absence of industry providing pesticide waste disposal stewardship, local and state governments, by default, have found it necessary to implement sizable and costly collection and disposal programs.

## **D. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **MDA**

- MDA should continue to support the collection activities of cooperating counties by providing funding for the supplies, transportation, disposal and reasonable overhead costs via Cooperative Agreements.
- MDA should examine electronic web-based technologies to provide farmers and other pesticide users another convenient method to register the type, amount and location of waste pesticides. This pre-collection information would provide counties and MDA the ability to better coordinate collection activities.
- MDA should consider amending the definition of waste pesticide to remove the words “usable pesticide” to encourage individuals to use the product for its intended use and decrease the amount of pesticides that are eligible for disposal. [18B.01, Subd. 31a. defines waste pesticide as *a pesticide that the pesticide end user considers a waste. A waste pesticide can be a canceled pesticide, an unusable pesticide, or a usable pesticide.*]

### **Legislative**

- Registrants of Ready-To-Use pesticides and distributors of genetically engineered crops that require use of selective pesticides (i.e. Roundup herbicide) should bear a greater share of associated pesticide disposal costs.
- 18B.065 Subd. 2a.(b) states, *For nonagricultural waste pesticides, the commissioner must provide a disposal opportunity each year in each county.* Some counties have Joint Power Agreements with adjacent counties or nearby counties to handle their HHWs due to lack of infrastructure or funding in their own county. Such agreements should be recognized to meet MDA’s statutory obligation to collect waste pesticides in every county or the statute should be amended to include the additional language - *or for a group of counties under a joint power agreement for household hazardous waste disposal.*

## **D. RECOMMENDATIONS (cont.):**

### **Legislative (cont.)**

- The MDA should propose and the MN Legislature should enact legislation that offers indemnification to MN Counties that participate in Cooperative Agreements with the MDA.
- The objective of managing waste pesticides should be shifted from collections to product stewardship and greater responsibility placed on the registrant/manufacturer to manage their products through the products life cycle, including disposal of the products. The registrant / manufacturer has great ability to minimize the environmental impact through packaging, marketing and distribution which would encourage the overall reduction of waste pesticides and the development of a more efficient collection model for pesticide end-users.

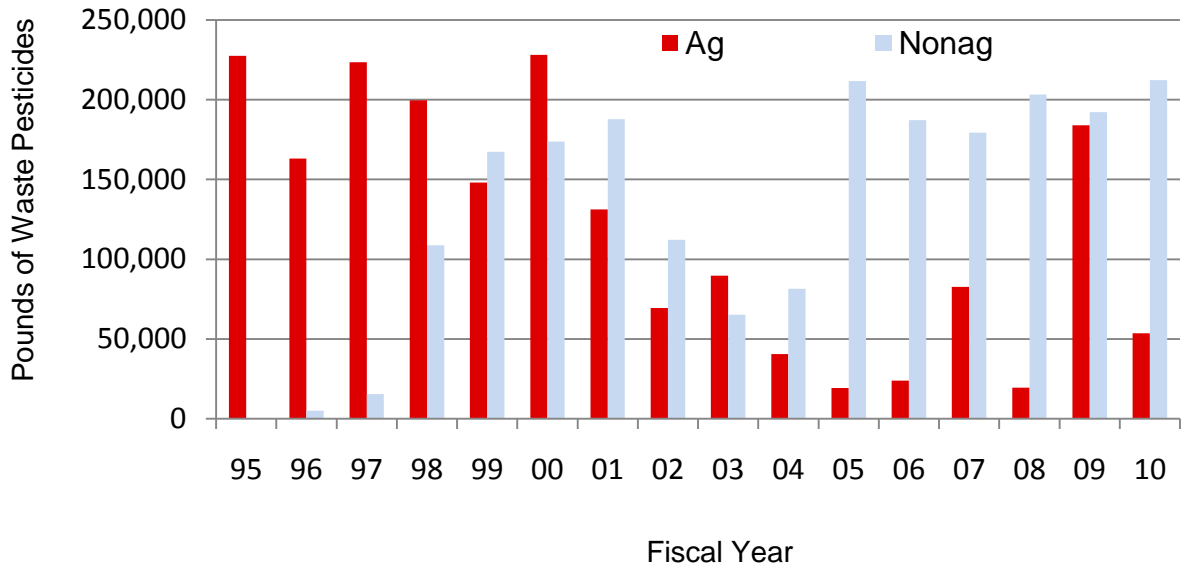
### **County**

- County Boards should actively encourage their respective county programs to participate and/or maintain participation in MDA's Waste Pesticide Collection program, including the use of MDA's web-based inventory reporting system. Consistent statewide participation by counties offers the most convenient, cost effective waste pesticide disposal for county residents, farmers and businesses.
- The MDA should conduct outreach to homeowners on pesticide selection, use, storage and handling to minimize the amount of waste pesticides generated and offered for disposal. This initiative should be coordinated with the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the counties who currently provide household hazardous waste educational materials to homeowners on a routine basis.



Annual Waste Pesticides Collected and Disposed

Figure 1



Type and Amount of Waste Pesticides Collected  
Calendar Year 2010

Figure 2

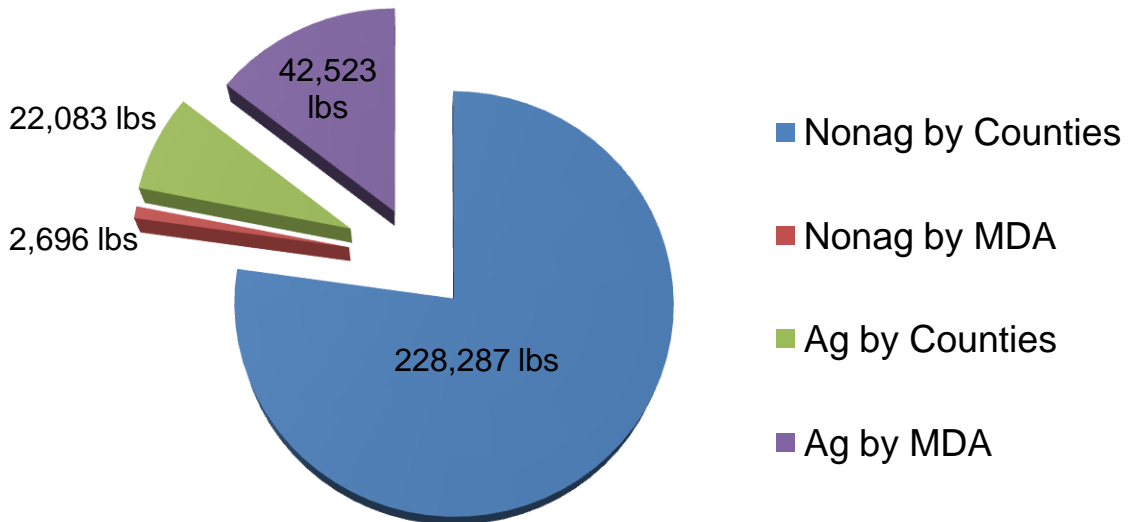
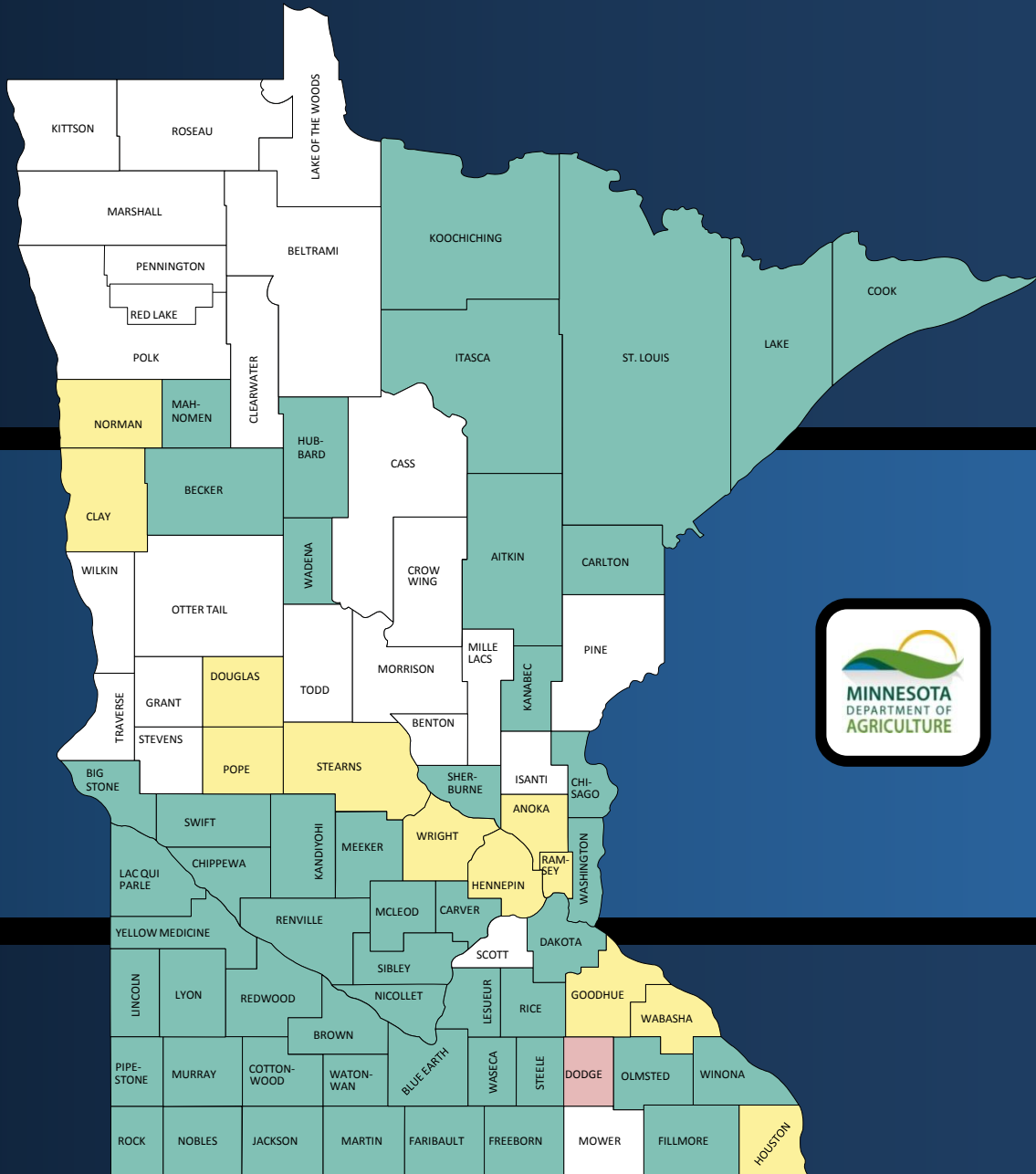






Figure 3

# Waste Pesticide Collection Cooperative Agreements



-  Collect Both Ag and Nonag Pesticides (50)
-  Collect Only Nonag Pesticides (12)
-  Unable to Collect Ag or Nonag Pesticides (1)
-  Declined (24)

## 2010 Cooperative Agreements

Figure 4

<b>Agreed to Collect</b>	<b>Calendar year 2010</b>
Nonag and Ag	50
Only Nonag	12
Declined MDA Cooperative Agreement Offers	24
Unable to Collect Either	1

## 2010 Type and Amount of Waste Pesticide Collected

Figure 5

	<b>Nonag</b>	<b>Ag</b>	<b>Total (lbs)</b>
Collected by Counties or Regions	228,287	22,083	250,370
Collected by MDA	2,696	42,523	45,219
<b>Total (lbs)</b>	<b>230,472</b>	<b>65,770</b>	<b>295,589</b>

## 2010 Costs

Figure 6

	<b>Cooperative Agreements</b>	<b>MDA Sponsored</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Disposal</b>	\$266,082	\$81,424	\$347,506
<b>Advertising</b>	\$725	\$7,152	\$7,877
<b>Overhead</b>	\$62,760	\$118,220 (est.)	\$180,980
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$329,367</b>	<b>\$206,796</b>	<b>\$536,363</b>

**MDA SPONSORED NONAG FOCUSED WASTE  
PESTICIDE COLLECTIONS  
2010**

Figure 7

County	Event Date	Ag Waste Pesticides (lbs)	NonAg Waste Pesticides (lbs)	Total (lbs)
1. Dodge	April 20	300	11	311
2. Mower	April 20	46	59	105
3. Isanti	April 22	48	9	57
4. Pine	April 22	154	434	588
5. Grant	April 26	60	0	60
6. Stevens	April 27	85	8	93
7. Traverse	April 27	720	0	720
8. Todd	April 28	84	0	84
9. Morrison	April 28	425	88	513
10. Crow Wing	April 29	415	427	842
11. Mille Lacs	April 29	0	28	28
12. Benton	May 3	110	42	152
14. Cass	May 4	0	2	2
15. Beltrami	May 4	5	179	184
16. LOW	May 5	772	0	772
17. Roseau	May 5	590	0	590
18. Pennington	May 6	2042	11	2053
19. Red Lake	May 6	409	0	409
20. Clearwater	May 7	287	0	287
21. Scott	June 5	0	187	187
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,552</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>8,037</b>

# MDA SPONSORED AGRICULTURAL FOCUSED WASTE PESTICIDE COLLECTIONS 2010

Figure 8

County & Event Date	Ag Waste Pesticides (lbs)	NonAg (lbs) Waste Pesticides	Total (lbs)
1. Goodhue Aug. 3	3,117	0	3,117
2. Wabasha Aug. 3	823	16	839
3. Dodge Aug. 4	250	0	250
4. Mower Aug. 4	1,760	0	1,760
5. Houston Aug. 5	366	0	366
6. Wright Aug. 9	330	0	330
7. Stearns Aug. 9	1,684	2	1,686
8. Douglas Aug. 10	260	27	287
9. Pope Aug. 10	137	0	137
10. Grant Aug. 11	871	0	871
11. Stevens Aug. 11	860	0	860
12. Traverse Aug. 12	713	13	726
13. Isanti Aug. 16	64	39	103
14. Pine Aug. 16	255	14	269
15. Benton Aug. 17	4,167	0	4,167
16. Mille Lacs Aug. 17	0	0	0
17. Morrison Aug. 18	571	0	571
18. CrowWing Aug. 18	225	487	712
19. Todd Aug. 19	346	0	346

County & Event Date	Ag Waste Pesticides (lbs)	NonAg (lbs) Waste Pesticides	Total (lbs)
20. Otter Tail Aug. 19	1,269	185	1,454
21. Beltrami Aug. 24	594	0	594
22. LOW Aug. 24	475	0	475
23. Roseau Aug. 25	122	19	141
24. Kittson Aug. 25	533	0	533
25. Marshall Aug. 26	1372	0	1372
26. Polk Aug. 26	1284	0	1284
27. Wilkin Sept. 13	1613	0	1613
28. Clay Sept. 14	2515	1	2516
29. Norman Sept. 14	789	33	822
30. Red Lake Sept. 15	103	0	103
31. Pennington Sept. 15	3089	47	3136
32. Clearwater Sept. 16	330	0	330
33. Cass Sept. 16	243	158	401
34. Hennepin Sept. 23	3,044	0	3,044
35. Anoka Sept. 23	9	170	179
36. Scott Oct. 5	774	0	774
37. Ramsey Oct. 6	1,014	0	1014
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35,971</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>37,182</b>

## Waste Pesticides Collected Under Cooperative Agreements 2010

Figure 9

TOP 10 NONAG PRODUCTS		TOP 10 AG PRODUCTS	
ACTIVE INGREDIENT	POUNDS	ACTIVE INGREDIENT	POUNDS
2,4-D	43,454	2,4-D	2,472
MCPPP-P	29,434	Atrazine	1,230
Dicamba	20,293	Trifluralin	1,092
Glyphosate	17,714	Glyphosate	967
Mecoprop	9,531	Sodium Trichloroacetate	844
Diazinon	8,412	Dicamba	729
Pyrethrins	7,022	MCPPP-P	707
Piperonyl Butoxide	6,821	Pendimethalin	512
Carbaryl	6,243	Phostebupirm	488
Bifenthrin	5,912	Malathion	474

## Waste Pesticides Collected at MDA Sponsored Collections 2010

Figure 10

TOP 10 NONAG PRODUCTS		TOP 10 AG PRODUCTS	
NAME OF ACTIVE INGREDIENT	POUNDS	NAME OF ACTIVE INGREDIENT	POUNDS
2,4-D	261	Atrazine	4,063
Acetochlor	231	Glyphosate	2,838
Glyphosate	173	2,4-D	2,279
Malathion	126	Acetochlor	2,199
Carbaryl	110	Trifluralin	1,735
Diazinon	109	Triallate	1,511
Chlorpyrifos	101	Clomazone	1,183
Mecoprop	97	Sodium Bentazon	923
Resmethrin	90	EPTC	912
MCPPP-P	89	Ethalftruralin	908