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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028

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MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release
Date: December 31, 2008

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PESTICIDE BOARD TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO EXISTING PESTICIDE REGULATIONS

WHO: Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC)
WHAT: Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period
WHEN: Friday, January 23, 2009, 9:30 AM
WHERE: Hampton Inn, 425 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Waterville
DETAILS: The BPC will be holding a public hearing on Friday, January 23, 2009, to solicit comments from members of the public, the applicator community, and pesticide dealers on proposed changes to three of the Board's rules affecting Aerial Spraying, Bt Sweet Corn, and Pesticide Storage Facility Standards.

Proposed Rule Changes:

(1) Chapter 24—Pesticides Storage Facility Standards/Pesticide Distributors: Amend the current rule to incorporate, by reference, the federal pesticide management and disposal rule, which applies to pesticide containers and containment of bulk pesticides.

Explanation: Incorporating the federal rule in this manner will simplify administration by the state, reduce the Board's administrative costs, and does not increase any regulatory burden.

(2) Chapter 28—Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications: Amend the current rule to create a Maine Aerial Pesticide Application Notification Registry.

Explanation: Due to opposition to the previous proposal, the Board is seeking to establish an online registry, where interested parties wishing to be notified may sign up and receive notification of aerial spraying of pesticides in their vicinity.

(3) Chapter 41—Special Restrictions on Pesticide Use: Amend the current rule to create a mechanism to regulate Bt sweet corn to prevent pollen drift to other non-Bt-corn crops and to restrict sales of Bt sweet corn seed only to quantities large enough to plant one acre or more.

Explanation: While Bt field corn is already regulated under Chapter 41, Bt sweet corn, not yet registered in Maine, has different cultural requirements and would require separate treatment under the rule.

Written Comments:

The BPC is also accepting written comments until 5:00 PM, Friday, February 6, 2009; mail comments to Henry Jennings, Director, Board of Pesticides Control, 28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0028, e-mail: henry.jennings@maine.gov, telephone: 207-287-2731, FAX: 207-624-5035.

Copies of the proposed rules, as well as details on the hearing and comment period, can be found at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/laws/rulemaking.htm.

The Maine Board of Pesticides Control is the lead state agency for pesticide regulation. It is an administrative unit of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, with policy decisions made by a seven-member, public board.

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