

COMPLETED PROJECT REPORT

Project Title: Evaluation of the adoption of industrial hygiene practices by CDFA bait mixing facilities

Research Agency: University of California - Cooperative Extension

Principal Investigator: T. Salmon

Budget: \$73,983

Background:

There are currently 7 bait mixing facilities in California operated by County Agriculture Commissioners. They are located in Yolo, Merced, Alameda, Fresno, Kings, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. These facilities prepare substantial amounts of anticoagulant and zinc phosphide baits. For example, from 1992 through 2003, these facilities produced and sold on average slightly over 1 million lb of rodenticide baits per year. In the current fiscal year (04-05), baits produced and sold by the Agriculture Commissioners in the 1st two months have already totaled approximately 710,000 lb.

An important aspect of bait production is industrial hygiene and worker safety. State and federal workplace safety regulations require certain procedures and equipment to ensure worker safety. However, there is little information on the practices or personal safety equipment employed at the different county facilities.

In this study we will assess the current worker safety procedures and equipment utilized at the county facilities with regard to industrial hygiene and worker safety, and evaluate two approaches to implementing proper procedures and use of safety equipment by bait mixing personnel in the 8 counties that mix bait.

Objectives:

1. Assess the current state of industrial hygiene and safety equipment use at County Agriculture Commissioner bait mixing facilities. This would be accomplished as required through phone or mailed surveys and by on-site inspections.
2. Evaluate two approaches to implementing industrial hygiene; one employing training and demonstration, the other by simply providing the necessary supplies/equipment.

Summary:

This project was conducted in order to evaluate the industrial hygiene and safety practices at the California County Bait Mixing Facilities. The main components of this project included bait mixing facility site visits, evaluation of current hygiene and safety practices, and the purchase of supplies to improve current hygiene and safety practices. The results were an improvement in day-to-day operational bait manufacturing procedures, though individual facilities, equipment and supplies could still use additional improvements. This project was a collaborative effort

between the California Department of Food and Agriculture, The University of California, and the bait manufacturing counties of Alameda, Fresno, Kings, Merced, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Yolo.

Last Updated:

02/03/09