

# Pesticide Regulation

## Update to 2006 Evaluation Report

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### Problems Identified

- **Insufficient Review of Certain Pesticide Application Records.** Department of Agriculture inspectors did not always review in person the pesticide application records related to allegations of misuse.
- **Unknown Effectiveness.** The department imposed enforcement actions when people violated pesticide laws but did not fully evaluate them. It was also slow to evaluate its best management practices related to groundwater and surface water protection.
- **Inadequate Collection of Waste Pesticides.** Statutes require programs for disposing of leftover pesticides, but the department only partially fulfilled this requirement.
- **Inadequate Monitoring of Urban Pesticides.** Although required by law, the department did not consistently measure urban pesticide use. Also, it did not adequately monitor surface water in sensitive urban areas for nonagricultural pesticides.

### Changes Implemented

- **Standard Operating Procedures Improved.** The department now requires inspectors to obtain pesticide application records in person and compare records in certain cases.
- **New Data Management System Underway.** By July 2007, the department expects to fully implement a new database for tracking and evaluating its enforcement program.
- **Expanded Activities Regarding Urban Pesticides.** The department hired staff to implement a consistent approach to measuring urban pesticide use. It also expanded its surface water monitoring activities to include urban sites and nonagricultural pesticides.
- **Drafted Plan to Evaluate Best Management Practices.** The department has developed a draft plan for evaluating its best management practices and hired staff to implement it.

### Action Needed

- **Evaluate the New Data Management System.** The department should determine how well the new system evaluates the consistency and effectiveness of enforcement actions.
- **Improve Options for Waste Pesticides.** The department should continue to seek options for waste-pesticide disposal statewide, as the law requires.
- **Expand Surface Water Monitoring in More Urban Areas.** The department should continue expanding its program to include urban sites outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

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*Pesticide Regulation* is available at <http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us>. For more information, contact Jody Hauer at 651-296-8501 or Jo Vos at 651-296-1233 or by e-mail at [jody.hauer@state.mn.us](mailto:jody.hauer@state.mn.us) or [jo.vos@state.mn.us](mailto:jo.vos@state.mn.us).

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