

COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT HOSTS FIRST OBSOLETE PESTICIDE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Dec. 7, 2011 – Ottawa, ON – Farmers in the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) in British Columbia turned in 847 kilograms of obsolete pesticides during a one-day collection held in partnership with CleanFARMS.

“CleanFARMS is proud to offer collection programs to ensure unwanted or obsolete pesticides can be disposed of in an environmentally responsible way, at no cost to farmers,” said Barry Friesen, general manager of CleanFARMS, a national, industry-led stewardship organization. “This was the first time we’ve held a collection program in this region and thanks to the participation of both farmers and the Comox Valley Regional District, it was a great success.”

On October 6, producers were invited to return their unwanted or obsolete pesticides to the Comox Valley waste management centre. Throughout the month of October, collections were also held at four other locations in the Fraser Valley and on Vancouver Island.

“We were pleased to be a part of this program which provides a great service to farmers and helps protect the local environment,” said Koreen Gurak, CVRD’s manager of communications. “The commitment of our communities and farmers to protect its people and the environment was made clear by the success of this program.”

CleanFARMS partnered with the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC), through the Agriculture Environment and Wildlife Fund of the BC Investment Agriculture Foundation, to fund and operate this program.

The CleanFARMS obsolete pesticide collection program is a national, industry-led program. Since 1998 more than 1.4 million kilograms of obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides have been collected through the program – more than 207,000 of which have been collected in B.C. After collection, the pesticides are taken to a licensed disposal facility where they are disposed of through high temperature incineration.

For more information on the plant science industry’s recycling initiatives, please visit www.CleanFARMS.ca.

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