



Australian Livestock &
Property Agents Association



Australian Pesticides &
Veterinary Medicines Authority



September 2006

To FARMERS & GRAZIERS

Disposing of Unwanted Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has received a number of approaches from state/territory agencies, livestock & property agents and primary producers concerned about the practice of selling agricultural and veterinary chemicals at clearing sales. In many cases they are old expired products or drums of partly used chemicals where the label has fallen off or can no longer be read.

Selling chemicals at farm auctions and clearance sales is problematical for a number of reasons as the product may no longer be safe or have its intended effect. There may also be legal issues. At a minimum farmers and agents may be contravening a number of relevant sections of the *Commonwealth Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*. There may also be contraventions of State or Territory legislation, such as OH&S.

The fact that surplus chemicals (with deficient or non-existent labels that may be unregistered or out-of-date) continue to be sold, suggests that some farmers may not be aware of the options and requirements.

To this end the APVMA, in association with the Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association (ALPA) and Agsafe Limited has developed a tool (the Surplus Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Disposal Protocol) with associated notes that provides clear guidance on what primary producers should do with surplus farm chemicals.

We believe that this information will be of assistance, and lead to higher standards of chemical management. Please find attached a copy of the Disposal Protocol and notes for your information. Additional copies can be downloaded from the news section of the ALPA website (www.alpa.net.au).

Please contact Simon Cubit of the APVMA on (02) 6272 3797 or Sam Ponder of Agsafe on (02) 6230 4799 if you have any questions about this initiative.

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