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PRESS RELEASE

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Maine Legislature Revises Pesticide Notification Law

- **Pesticide Notification Registry Deadline Extended to June 15**
- **Board of Pesticides Control Holds Public Meetings, Seeks Input**

AUGUSTA—On April 1, Governor Baldacci signed Public Law 2009, Chapter 584, LD 1547, *An Act To Revise Notification Requirements for Pesticides Applications Using Aircraft or Air-carrier Equipment*. This new law was passed in response to concerns expressed by pesticide applicators, and shifts, to the Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC), the burden of informing the public of its right to be notified about pesticide spraying through a notification registry.

The law retains the neighbors' right to join the notification registry and receive notice about individual pesticide applications, made by airplanes, helicopters, mist blowers, or air-blast sprayers, throughout the growing season. The law gives the BPC the responsibility for developing and maintaining the registry, where those listed with property located within 1,320 feet (one-quarter mile) of an area being sprayed will have to be notified at least one day, but not more than seven days, before a pesticide application will be made. Exceptions are a notification distance of 500 feet for applications to fruit trees or Christmas trees, and non-agricultural spraying, such as for ticks, mosquitoes, and tree pests. These exemptions expire in January 2012.

The first edition of the 2010 registry was closed on March 15. However, names can be added to the 2010 registry until June 15. Anyone signing up between March 15 and June 15 will not qualify for notification until July 1, 2010. To sign up on the registry, go to the BPC website, www.thinkfirstspraylast.org, or call the BPC at 207-287-2731 for a registry application form.

The new law also directs the BPC to establish a comprehensive pesticide notification registry, incorporating the two registries that now exist into a single unit. This would allow anyone interested about nearby outdoor pesticide applications to be notified. The comprehensive registry would also be expanded to include other types of pesticide application equipment.

In an effort to obtain as much input from the public as possible on the development of a comprehensive registry, the BPC will be holding Public Information Gathering Meetings at various locations around the state. The first meeting will focus on the scope and operation of a comprehensive registry and will take place at the Board's next meeting on Friday, April 16, at the John E. Dority Safety & Performance Training Center, 10 Mountain Avenue, in Fairfield. Members of the public and pesticide applicators are encouraged to attend to offer their constructive ideas. Details of the meeting and directions to the location can be found at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org, or by calling the Board's office at 207-287-2731

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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