



Potato Program
57 Houlton Road, Presque Isle, ME 04769, (207) 764-3361; Fax (207) 764-3362

January 26, 2011

Mary Tomlinson (mary.e.tomlinson@maine.gov)
Pesticide Registrar
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Dear Mary:

I supported Syngenta's request for a 24c SLN label request to the State of Maine for Bravo® Zn (EPA Reg. Number 50534-204-100) to increase the total allowable active ingredient per acre from 12.0 lb. per year to 16.0 pounds per year. On April 16, 2010, the Board of Pesticides Control met and the request was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously (http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pesticides/pdf/board/agenda_documents/may10/Apr10Min.pdf).

The request was to increase the total allowable active ingredient per acre from 12.0 lb. per year to 16.0 pounds per year. This is the equivalent increasing the current 21.5 BravoZn pints per acre per year to 28.7 BravoZn pints per acre per year.

I gleaned Bravo as well as BravoZn application data from the Potato IPM database. This database consists, among other data, of a record of the pesticide applications made by the grower.

From the database, 10 growers applied Bravo Zn. The pints per acre per year were: 4.25, 4, 5, 8.5, 9, 9, 9.75, 12.1 2.5, 13.



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From the database, 31 growers applied Bravo of any formulation. The pints per acre per year were: 1.5, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4.25, 6, 6.6, 6.75, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.2, 8.5, 8.5, 8.625, 9, 9, 9, 9.25, 10, 10, 10.75, 11.25, 12, 13, 14, 19.

I feel this is a good picture of the practices of the Maine potato industry.

As I recall mentioning at the MBPC meeting, growers do not like putting on pesticides and I feel strongly that they do not put them on unnecessarily. We dedicate a good deal of effort to forecasting the application timings in order to reduce the impact of fungicides in the environment. We had a very dry summer and for the first time on record, I told growers to put the sprayers away. I think most, if not all, did just that. Not one of the growers in our database even put on the 21.5 pints per acre per year. The mean application was 7.7 pints of Bravo per acre. Since no grower reached the limit allowed on the federal label, no grower actually applied the additional amount allowed by the 24c SLN. I am pleased that not only was the additional material not needed in 2010, it was not applied. I think this speaks volumes of the Maine potato industry. I appreciate the MBPC approving the request to “put another tool in the tool belt” of a half a billion dollar industry in Maine.

After the approval, board members also requested a report back on the use of the product and any water quality sampling results. I did none nor do I have water sampling data but I hope this letter suffices for the requested report back on the use of the product. If you have any further questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve B. Johnson'.

Crops Specialist

www.umaine.edu/umext/potatoprogram www.umext.maine.edu

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