

EPA stands by chlorpyrifos in latest decision

Don Jenkins
Capital Press

U.S. farmers are applying less chlorpyrifos and likely would adapt to a ban, but keeping the insecticide in reserve would be insurance against outbreaks of pests, a Washington State University entomologist said Friday.

Measured in pounds, chlorpyrifos remains the most widely applied conventional insecticide in the U.S. But USDA numbers show its use is declining, even without the prohibition sought by environmental groups, said Allan Felsot, a professor and extension specialist at WSU Tri-Cities.

"There's no doubt there are going to be specific situations where it's effective," he

said. "A compromise position for the industry could be ... only use it when you need to."

The Environmental Protection Agency reaffirmed Thursday that it won't outlaw chlorpyrifos, at least not yet. The EPA maintained its stance that ban advocates haven't proven that even at low levels chlorpyrifos permanently damages unborn children and infants and lowers their IQs.

The EPA announcement met a deadline set by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A dozen groups represented by Earthjustice petitioned to prohibit the chemical. Seven states, including Washington and California, backed the petition.

Washington Gov. Jay

Inslee on Friday equated chlorpyrifos with pollution. "Again and Again, the Trump administration puts polluters before our children and their futures," tweeted Inslee, who linked to a New York Times story on EPA's decision.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue tweeted his approval of EPA's position.

"For more than 50 crops, chlorpyrifos is the only line of defense and a cost-effective crop protection tool for farmers. We appreciate the EPA's support of American farmers and producers in its commitment to fact-based regulatory oversight of crop protection tools," he wrote.

The Obama EPA tentatively proposed banning chlorpyrifos in 2015, but

resisted pressure from the 9th circuit to make a final decision until after a change in White House administrations. The Trump EPA has taken the position that it won't ban chlorpyrifos, but will complete a review by Oct. 1, 2022, or earlier.

The EPA has restricted the use of chlorpyrifos over the past two decades. The agency said more limits could be coming.

"Registration review is a comprehensive, scientific and transparent process that will further evaluate the potential effects of chlorpyrifos," the EPA said in a statement.

"EPA has also been engaged in discussions with the chlorpyrifos registrants that could result in fur-

ther use limitations affecting the outcome of EPA's assessments."

Felsot said he's neutral on whether to ban chlorpyrifos. "I'm not worried about it," he said. "I know people are going to adapt."

But he defended farmers. "I don't like agriculture being impugned, when actually it's already changing, and they're not using this stuff," he said.

The volume of insecticides used in the U.S. declined from 99 million pounds in 2000 to 60 million pounds in 2012, according to a 2017 EPA report. Four million to 8 million pounds of chlorpyrifos were used in 2012.

The EPA said farmers shifted away from chlorpy-

rifos and other organophosphates in favor of other classes of pesticides. Chlorpyrifos has been used in U.S. agriculture since 1965.

Product makers voluntarily stopped using chlorpyrifos in 2000 for household purposes, except in ant and roach bait that came in child-proof packages.

More recent USDA figures for individual crops suggest farmers are continuing to shift away from chlorpyrifos, even as the insecticide gets more attention, Felsot said.

"In a way, this whole issue has jumped the shark," he said. "We're not in the real of scientific information. We're in the realm of social aspects."

Former body shop worker follows birds to new career as master falconer

Brenna Wiegand
For the Capital Press

Howard Ward worked in a body shop 43 years before deciding to change careers — he became a falconer.

Ward, owner of Sharp Talon Bird Abatement, in Grants Pass, Ore., wishes he'd made the switch years ago. He now travels the West Coast to chase starlings from berry and grape fields, such as the 70 acres of blueberries belonging to GNC Farms near Salem, Ore.

"It's bad; we've tried a lot of things to keep the starlings out of our blueberries and they don't work very well," Brian Martin of GNC Farms said. "We've tried propane cannons and screechers; lasers worked for a little while then when we got really high pressure they didn't work. Natural predators, they don't get used to."

Ward is at the field flying his birds at least 12 hours a day, seven days a week throughout harvest — about 35 days total. Each falcon can fly up to an hour three times a day.

"Once I get the starlings

completely run out of here they come back in a few days if you don't have a falcon flying," Ward said. Once released, the falcon loops through the crop, following Ward as he walks from one end of the property to the other.

"When you put a bird of prey in the air the starlings know that's not good," Ward said. "You've got a bird of prey in the air and the starlings just go to the next farm."

Becoming a falconer takes years. After finding a sponsor, applicants must pass a falconry test, procure the appropriate state and federal licenses and catch a wild red-tailed hawk or kestrel falcon.

Though wild birds may not be used to make money, this first bird must be maintained for at least a year before a two-year apprenticeship begins. After that, the falconer is a "general" for five years before becoming a master falconer. Ward has been at it for seven years and will be a master falconer at the end of this year.

A bird fresh from the



Holly, Howard Ward's Barbary falcon, prepares to take flight at a Salem, Ore., blueberry farm. Ward's birds chase off pest birds that damage blueberries and grapes.

Brenna Wiegand/For the Capital Press

breeder costs anywhere from \$1,500 to \$3,500, and from a falcon's first step from perch to glove to free flying on command, training takes about three months.

"They don't always come back," Ward said. "We've had to chase them down

sometimes, but they wear radio and GPS trackers.

"I don't recommend anybody flying birds without a GPS tracker," Ward said. "They're spendy but your birds are worth a lot. I know exactly where the bird is; if he gets to a pole in another

town I can track right to him."

Besides starlings at farms, dairies and airports, falcons drive seagulls from dump sites and pigeons from downtown Portland and other areas, including Sea World.

There are many methods berry and grape farmers employ, but Ward says a bird of prey is hard to outsmart.

"Anything man-made is only going to last for a while until they get used to it," Ward said. "You can have noisemakers all over the place but the only thing that really works is the real deal."

At home, falcons require their own room and weathering area. It's important to have an avian vet on hand and fly the birds year round so they get the exercise they need to stay healthy.

Ward's birds range in weight from a little over 1 pound to nearly 2 pounds. It's important to regulate each bird's weight and food — frozen-purchased quail — is precisely measured.

"If they're too heavy they'll just go sit somewhere," Ward said. "If they're too light they don't have enough energy to fly."

"It's such a pleasure to be out here working with the birds; I wish I'd done it years ago," Ward said. "It's the relationship that you build with each bird; each one is totally different."

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Hells Canyon Creek Boat Ramp Repair

Administrative Review (Objection) Opportunity

The Hells Canyon National Recreation Area of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is proposing the authorization of repair to the existing boat ramp located at Hells Canyon Creek of the Snake Wild and Scenic River. The project area is located in Wallowa County, approximately 30 miles southeast of Joseph, Oregon.

Analysis has been completed and the Hells Canyon Creek Boat Ramp Repair Project is now subject to pre-decisional administrative review; a requirement of 36 CFR 218 subparts A and B. A copy of the Environmental Assessment and draft Decision Notice and/or additional information can be obtained either online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54975> or by contacting Andrea Holmquist at the Wallowa Mountains Office, PO Box 905, Joseph, OR 97846, 541-426-5533, or emailing andrea.holmquist@usda.gov.

Only individuals or organizations that submitted specific written comments during a designated opportunity for public participation (scoping or the 30-day public comment periods) may object (36 CFR 218.5). Notices of objection must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 218.8(d); incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided for at 36 CFR 218.8(b).

Objections must be submitted within 45 days following the publication of the legal notice in the Wallowa County Chieftain, Enterprise OR. The date of this legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure evidence of timely receipt (36 CFR 218.9).

The objection must be filed by way of regular mail, fax 541-278-3730, e-mail, hand-delivery, or express delivery to the Objection Review Officer: Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya, Attn.1570 Appeals and Objections, 1550 Dewey Ave, Suite A, Baker City, OR 97814. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest's project webpage (see link above) selecting the "Comment/Object on Project" link in the "Get Connected" group at the right hand side of the project webpage. Comments directed to other Forest staff and email comments containing viruses or malware will be rejected.

Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after the opportunities for comment. The burden is on the objector to demonstrate compliance with this requirement for objection issues.

Published: Wallowa County Chieftain July 24, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Wallowa is accepting sealed bids on a 2000 Case 580 4x4 Backhoe with Approx. 4000 hrs. on it. Extendable rear hoe with thumb attachment, front fork attachment.

Bids accepted until 4:00 p.m. July 30th, to be opened July 31st. minimum bid starting at \$20,000.

For viewing or more information contact Wallowa City Hall 541-886-2422

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NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

On the 27th day of August, 2019, at the hour of 11:00 a.m. at the Wallowa County Justice Center, 104 W. Greenwood St., Enterprise, OR 97828, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the real property commonly known as: 315 East Garfield, Enterprise, OR 97828. The court case number is 17CV50999, where U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF AND WITH RESPECT TO AJAX MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2018-B, MORTGAGE-BACKED NOTES is plaintiff, and DAVID CARPENTER AKA DAVID A. CARPENTER; STATE OF OREGON; CAPITAL ONE BANK; MIDLAND FUNDING LLC; EGP INVESTMENTS, LLC; DYNAMIC STRATEGIES INC.; UNIFUND CCR LLC; OCCUPANTS OF THE PROPERTY is defendant. The sale is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand, made out to Wallowa County Sheriff's Office. For more information on this sale go to: <http://oregonsheriffssales.org/>

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HERE BY GIVEN that the City of Enterprise Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a Public Hearing located at 102 E. North Street on August 6th, 2019 @ 7:00PM. Property owner Leonard Dodson of 701 SW Thorpes Lane, has submitted an application for a minor partition. The subject property is located at 701 SW Thorpes Lane (Map #02S4402BD, Tax Lot 700).

Catherine Fish, Chairman
Enterprise Planning Commission

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLOWA

In the Matter of the Estate of ANNA M. WARNOCK,
Deceased

Case no. 19PB04830
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned personal representative at the office of Paige Sully PC, 213 W. Main Street, Enterprise Oregon 97828, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative, or the lawyers for the personal representative, Paige Sully PC, 213 W. Main Street, Enterprise Oregon 97828. Telephone number 541-426-0535.

Dated and first published on July 24, 2019.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Norman Lovell
72234 Lower Imnaha Road
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541-577-3123

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