

RESOLUTION 1-19
LOSS OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE

WHEREAS Under the authority of the *Pest Control Product Act* and based on the evaluation of currently available scientific information, Health Canada is proposing that products containing strychnine for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels do not meet the current standards for environmental protection and, therefore, proposed to be cancelled;

WHEREAS There needs to be a product available to producers to effectively assist in the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency reconsider their decision and leave 2% Liquid Strychnine on the market available on a permanent basis to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels.

SPONSORED BY: Cypress County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Pest Management Regulatory Agency

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Health Canada and the PMRA have reviewed the label and use of 2% Liquid Strychnine. According to the review conclusion the recommendation is to remove the use of 2% Liquid Strychnine for use on ground squirrels. Richardson Ground Squirrels continue to pose a significant threat to agricultural production and strychnine has been used to reduce the impacts of severe infestations.

Strychnine being a single feed bait is efficient and effective and allows producers to treat small area and large area infestations when other parts of their integrated pest management practices have failed. Using multi-feed baits is ineffective due to the fact that there are too many other options for Richardson's Ground Squirrels to eat. Using shooting and trapping methods can be time consuming especially during peak times of production (seeding, spraying, irrigating, calving, branding, etc.). The use of fumigants can be unpredictable depending on soil conditions, as well they pose a high risk for primary poisoning as they will control all down hole inhabitants.

Strychnine is often attributed to unwarranted secondary poisoning, linked to species at risk (Burrowing Owls) and raptors. Although there could be a possibility of secondary poisoning, both of those birds of prey regularly prey on live rodents and far less often will they consume a dead gopher.

2% Liquid Strychnine is an essential tool in any agricultural producers integrated pest management toolbox as a consistent, effective tool in controlling Richardson's Ground Squirrel infestations.