



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL

July 18, 2025

9:00 AM Board Meeting

Join the meeting in person in Room 101, Deering Building, 90 Blossom Lane, Augusta
Or

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Meeting ID: 279 233 101 582 3

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AGENDA

1. Introductions of Board and Staff
 - a. Board: Adams, Bohlen, Carlton, Fanning, Gray, Neavyn,
 - b. Assistant Attorney General: Carey Gustanski
 - c. Staff: Boyd, Brown, Couture, Leibowitz, Peacock, Richard, Saucier, Van Hoewyk

2. Minutes of June 6, 2025, Board Meeting

Presentation By: Alex Peacock, Director
Action Needed: Amend and/or Adopt

 - **Carlton/Bohlen: Moved and seconded to adopt June 6, 2025 minutes as amended**
 - **In favor: Unanimous**

3. Licensure requirements for State of Maine Employees making pesticide applications in Laboratory settings

ALEXANDER PEACOCK, DIRECTOR
90 BLOSSOM LANE, DEERING BUILDING



PHONE: (207) 287-2731
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Government employees who apply pesticides as part of their duties require commercial applicator licensing. Staff are seeking clarity on the exemption within commercial category 10: Demonstration and Research Pest Control for individuals who conduct only laboratory-type research.

Presentation By: Alex Peacock, Director
Action Needed: Discussion/Action

- Peacock informed the board about a potato testing lab using a sprouting agent in Presque Isle. Employees there only have private licenses when a commercial applicator license is required. An exemption could be made, but it would need to be done through rulemaking.
- Adams clarified that private applicators cannot take the category 10 exam.
- Bohlen did not believe the language allowed for an exemption and Adams agreed not to change it.
- Peacock agreed to inform the lab that they need a commercial applicator.

4. LD 356: An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications

Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Prohibit the Use of Rodenticides in Outdoor Residential Settings

Presentations By: Alex Peacock, Director
Action Needed: None, Discussion

- Peacock explained the rulemaking procedure for the new bill that passed restricting the use of rodenticides in outdoor residential settings. The board discussed the complaint that informed the bill's creation and the subsequent three sessions that refined it into the passed bill. Peacock mentioned that the original version required more strict notification policies before it was amended and Adams added that if the pesticide use is within five feet of the building, they are not required to notify.
- Gray pointed out that restricting one rodenticide could lead to people using a less effective rodenticide, which would require them to use more.
- Bohlen discussed the difficulty of changing the behavior of unregulated pesticide users. Peacock mentioned the use of extra signage in stores where general-use rodenticides are sold. Boyd suggested that mandatory pamphlets be given with the purchase of rodenticides that highlight the risk of rodenticide use.
- Peacock also mentioned that commercial applicators are not required to retrieve the bait boxes they put out when a service is canceled.
- Bohlen asked what other states are doing to minimize the damage of misused rodenticide. Peacock said that Vermont has implemented the extra signage at rodenticide displays to educate the unregulated community instead of taking the tools away. Adams added that if rodenticide is too restricted, the rodent population would rise.

- Van Hoewyk asked what city planners are focused on in terms of the rodent population. Bohlen mentioned that plans are centered less on toxicology and more on rodent control. Management of trash and food availability is important in controlling the rodent population, but that is hard to do in an urban setting. This year's Rodent Academy was brought up as a great resource for public input and for learning about what other states are doing. VanHoewyk asked if a resistance to rodenticides has been noticed in rats. Peacock informed him that it has been recognized, and that is why a second generation of rodenticides were created.

5. LD 1323: An Act to Prohibit the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and the Use and Sale of Neonicotinoid-treated Seeds

Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Evaluate the Impact of Neonicotinoids on Pollinators, Humans, and the Environment.

Presentation By: Alex Peacock, Director & Doug Van Hoewyk, Ph.D., Pesticide Toxicologist

Action Needed: None; Discussion

- Peacock started the discussion by outlining what the board is required to do with the new LD 1323 being passed. The board is required to complete studies of impact, toxicity, crop protection from pests, and alternatives to neonicotinoids. VanHoewyk has started to investigate studies of treated seeds, but that will most likely need to be contracted out.
- Gray started a discussion on the alternatives to neonicotinoid pesticides and the disadvantages of removing a pesticide completely from a farmer's toolbox. The ability to change pesticides during crop rotation to combat resistance is critical in farming. Gray and Bohlen discussed ways to gather information from farmers on neonicotinoid use. VanHoewyk brought up studies done in Europe and Iowa, where neonicotinoids have been banned.
- The board agreed that experts will be needed while evaluating the impact of neonicotinoids. Boyd reminded the board that public feedback was also requested for the study.
- The first report is due January 15th, 2026, and the final report is due in 2027.

6. LD 1697: An Act to Increase Penalties to Deter Violations of the Laws Regarding Improper Pesticide Use

Overview of bill and proposed rule adoptions.

Presentation By: Alex Peacock, Director

Action Needed: None; Informational purposes

- Peacock informed the board of the increased cost of violation charges. It will require rulemaking on state-restricted-use pesticides. Peacock suggested using penalty matrices from Massachusetts and Vermont as references.

- Carlton started a discussion on the best way to communicate the change in violation charges to applicators. Boyd informed the board that the change had already been announced in the Board of Pesticide Control's monthly update.

7. Rulemaking Update & Overview

The first session of the 132nd Maine State Legislature has resulted in three pesticide-related bills being passed. These bills are LD 356: An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications, LD 1323: An Act to Prohibit the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and the Use and Sale of Neonicotinoid-treated Seeds, and LD 1697: An Act to Increase Penalties to Deter Violations of the Laws Regarding Improper Pesticide Use. Staff will provide an overview of the rulemaking process.

Presentation By: Karla Boyd, Policy & Regulations Specialist

Action Needed: None; Informational purposes

- Boyd led a discussion on policy and rulemaking involved in the three pesticide-related bills recently passed.
- Discussion around LD 356 involved defining what is considered a residential landscape in Chapter 10. Gray brought up the complication of migrant housing on farms when defining this phrase.
- Discussion also involved drone applications and whether additional rules were needed. Gray brought up how drones evolve quickly and recommended requirements around the FAA ruling.
- Boyd talked about restricted-use chemicals and the updated list of banned products by the EPA.
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8. Other Old and New Business

- a. EPA Announces Proposed Registration of New Active Ingredient Trifludimoxazin
 - VanHoewyk informed the board that Trifludimoxazin is practically non-toxic with low toxicity to bees and fish. It is considered PFAs in Maine, but not in the EPA. The half-life is 14-15 days.
- b. EPA Updates Maps to Protect Endangered Species and Provide Flexibility to Farmers
- c. City of Hallowell Landcare Management Ordinance
- d. City of Camden Revised Ordinance
- e. Amended FY22-25 Cooperative Agreement Guidance Memo
 - Peacock informed the board that the Cooperative agreement is on hold, but the current agreement has been extended with an amendment to follow the five pillars. Peacock estimated \$359,000 for our funds.

9. Schedule of Future Meetings

The next scheduled Board meeting date is October 3, 2025, at the Deering Building, Room 101, Augusta

Future Meetings: November 14, December 12, 2025

Adjustments and/or Additional Dates?

- A side discussion was had about what type of meeting should be held on Friday, October 3, 2025

10. Adjourn

- **Carlton/Gray: Moved and seconded to adjourn at 11:07 AM**
- **In favor: Unanimous**

NOTES

- The Board Meeting Agenda and most supporting documents are posted one week before the meeting on the Board website at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org.
- Any person wishing to receive notices and agendas for meetings of the Board, Medical Advisory Committee, or Environmental Risk Advisory Committee must submit a request in writing to the Board's office. Any person with technical expertise who would like to volunteer for service on either committee is invited to submit their resume for future consideration.
- On November 16, 2007, the Board adopted the following policy for submission and distribution of comments and information when conducting routine business (product registration, variances, enforcement actions, etc.):
 - *For regular, non-rulemaking business*, the Board will accept pesticide-related letters, reports, and articles. Reports and articles must be from peer-reviewed journals. E-mail, hard copy, or fax should be sent to the Board's office or pesticides@maine.gov. In order for the Board to receive this information in time for distribution and consideration at its next meeting, all communications must be received by 8:00 AM, three days prior to the Board meeting date (e.g., if the meeting is on a Friday, the deadline would be Tuesday at 8:00 AM). Any information received after the deadline will be held over for the next meeting.
- During rulemaking, when proposing new or amending old regulations, the Board is subject to the requirements of the APA (Administrative Procedures Act), and comments must be taken according to the rules established by the Legislature.