



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

November 21, 2025

9:00 AM Board Meeting

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

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 228 248 687 571 55

Passcode: Zn9TJ6is

Dial in by phone

[+1 207-209-4724,,431704420#](#) United States, Portland

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Phone conference ID: 431 704 420#

MINUTES

1. Introductions of Board and Staff

- Adams, Bohlen, Carlton, Fanning, Gray, Neavyn
- Boyd, Vacchiano, Leibowitz, Peacock, Couture, Richard, Poisson, Gustanski

2. Minutes of October 3, 2025, Board Meeting

Presentation By: Alex Peacock, Director

Action Needed: Amend and/or Adopt

- **Adams/Bohlen: Moved and seconded to adopt October 3rd, 2025 meeting minutes with amendments**
- **In favor: Unanimous**

ALEXANDER PEACOCK, DIRECTOR
90 BLOSSOM LANE, DEERING BUILDING



PHONE: (207) 287-2731
WWW.THINKFIRSTSPRAYLAST.ORG

3. LD 356: Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Prohibit the Use of Rodenticides in Outdoor Residential Settings

Continued discussion of LD 356 and preliminary report elements due to the ACF committee on January 15, 2026. Overview of Anticoagulant Rodenticides Scientific Review produced by Eastern Research Group, Inc. for the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources.

Presentation By: Alex Peacock, Director

Action Needed: None, Discussion

- Peacock relayed the 38 survey responses from industry representatives. Restriction of rodenticides would affect general-use pesticide dealers mostly.
- Adams brought up how the cost to hire a commercial applicator is much higher than a person purchasing bait pellets to spread themselves.
- Adams and Peacock discussed the resources available to low-income households in the case of restricting anti-coagulants.
- Carlton brought up the lack of education around IPM practices.
- Adams suggested funding a study into the impacts of restricting first and second-generation rodenticides.
- Boyd reminded the board that they were required to create a suggestion or recommendation on the outdoor residential use of rodenticides.
- The Board discussed what is considered a residential area and how to go about restricting rodenticides by use.
- Vacchiano informed the Board that restricting rodenticides by use would require going through each registered product individually.
- Adams requested that a rodent expert be brought into the next board meeting to get further insight.

4. 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. Update on current activities conducted by staff to satisfy this legislative directive and elements of the preliminary report due to the ACF committee on January 15, 2026.

Presentation By: Alex Peacock, Director

Action Needed: None; Discussion

- Peacock informed the Board of the progress on an RFP that was submitted. The RFP will be posted to contract with a research company that can compile information about the 7 questions posed in LD 1323, including how neonicotinoids are currently being used in Maine.

- Bohlen recommended conducting interviews along with a survey.
- Gray suggested incorporating Cooperative Extension into the process.
- Peacock mentioned that anonymous crop surveys have been used in the past to capture use data

5. Draft Policy regarding elements of Continuing Education Credit Classes

Staff have received an increased number of requests for online/video continuing education credits. This draft policy establishes the criteria required for approving online and video credit classes to ensure heightened transparency in approval and denial processes.

Presentation By: Amanda Couture, Manager of Pesticide Programs
Action Needed: Discussion, Amend/Adopt

- Couture informed the Board of the increase in demand for live/recorded online courses.
- Couture requested that the Board create a standards guideline for online classes.
- Carlton expressed the importance of in-person credit classes.
- Couture assured the Board that online courses would be in addition to in-person courses, not replacing them.

6. Pesticide Container Disposal Concerns

Recently, inspection staff have been alerted to the improper disposal of pesticide containers, including the burying and burning of containers. Staff are considering options to prevent this activity in the future, including potential rulemaking.

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

- Peacock informed the Board of recent reports of improper container disposal.
- Adams outlined some difficulties with complying with the parameters of proper disposal, and that further discussion on better deterrents is needed.

7. Other Old and New Business

- a. Variance Permit for CMR 01-026, Chapter 29, Wilkinson Ecological Design Inc., Lanes Island Way, Freeport, ME.
- b. Update on the 2025 Water Quality Assessment: Tracking Herbicide Impacts from Invasive Plant Species Control
 - Vacchiano informed the board that 109 samples were taken, including both water and sediment, and is waiting on some sample results.
- c. Town of Falmouth Municipal Pesticide & Fertilizer Ordinance

8. Schedule of Future Meetings

The next scheduled Board meeting date is December 19, 2025, at the Deering Building, Room 101, Augusta

Future Meetings: January 14, 2025 (ATS), February 27, 2026

Adjustments and/or Additional Dates?

9. Adjourn

**Carlton/Fanning: Moved and Seconded to adjourn at 11:00
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.