



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

December 19, 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: 276 462 955 907 74

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MINUTES

1. Introductions of Board and Staff

- Adams, Bohlen, Carlton, Fanning, Gray, Neavyn
- Boyd, Brown, Gayoso, Gustanski, Leibowitz, Peacock, Poisson, Richard, Saucier, Vacchiano, Van Hoewyk

2. Minutes of November 21, 2025, Board Meeting

Presentation By: Alex Peacock, Director

Action Needed: Amend and/or Adopt

- **Carlton/Gray: Moved and Seconded to adopt November 21st, 2025 meeting minutes.**
- **In Favor: Unanimous**

3. BPC Budget Update

Presentation By: Alex Peacock, Director

Action Needed: None, Informational

ALEXANDER PEACOCK, DIRECTOR
90 BLOSSOM LANE, DEERING BUILDING



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- Peacock informed the Board of the Board of Pesticide Control's 2026 budget, including the extension of the Cooperative Agreement. Plans for the budget include the required neonicotinoid study, IPM outreach, and an additional staff member.
- Adams expressed concern in the projected decline in revenue.
- Peacock stated that the BPC was keeping an eye on it and that it currently is only a projection.

4. 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. Mark Hudson of the Ag Container Recycling Council and Frank Leavitt of Nutrien Ag Solutions will discuss current recycling activities.

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

- Peacock introduced Mark Hudson of the Ag Container Recycling Council and Frank Leavitt of Nutrien Ag Solutions to discuss current recycling activities.
- Hudson gave a presentation on the work and history of ACRC. The ACRC not only collects containers through agricultural retailers and growers but also created free educational resources on proper container recycling.
- Leavitt explained his company's partnership with the ACRC and the setbacks involved in accepting customer containers. Approximately 30% of containers are rejected for pickup due to them not being properly rinsed. Leavitt believes the regulation and infrastructure in place is adequate, but recommended inspectors regularly check empty container storage. Word of mouth would encourage more applicators and farmers to properly rinse containers more frequently.
- Hudson reminded the Board of the resources the ACRC has to offer towards further education and training for applicators and farmers. The ACRC's experience across the country has shown positive results when keeping the information in front of growers on a regular basis.
- Carlton mentioned using the old container deposits as an incentive for growers to take rinsing more seriously.
- Leavitt explained that Nutrien picks up ready containers whenever they make a delivery. The ACRC provides them with waterproof bags for storage until recycling.
- Hudson also reminded the Board that many growers are correctly rinsing and disposing of containers. It is only a small portion who are not.
- Adams asked Gayoso when the label becomes enforceable.
- Gayoso did not believe there was a statute of limitation for labels.
- Peacock returned to the idea of an updated inspection method. Currently the inspection form has a spot for storage and disposal, but it is conducted as an interview. An adjustment to the form would need to be made, but a change of inspection practices could encourage the regulated community to properly rinse and dispose of containers .

- Neavyn brought up the focus on punishing those who do not properly rinse instead of rewarding those who do the correct thing. Possibly have a protocol checklist on the inspection form.
- Leavitt said that Nutrien is willing to help with education and collection.
- Gary Fish remarked that the only real leverage is public opinion and social marketing.
- Adams asked if there was any way to track who is properly rinsing and who isn't.
- Leavitt said that while they try to tag bags and bundles, tags can fall off. He knows when jugs aren't picked up as he gets calls from growers. Leavitt is willing to start sending rinsing procedures as a follow up email to those calls.
- Adams asked about the possibility of offering recertification credits for those who consistently rinse properly.
- Hudson mentioned ACRC already offers materials used for recertification throughout the country.
- Gray recommended announcing the change of inspection practices at the upcoming meetings.
- Adams asked Brown how many inspections he could do in a week.
- Brown said about five or six a week.
- Peacock reiterated the plan to enhance inspections and roll out new recertification courses. Peacock asked Leavitt if an inspector could come to a pickup to inspect containers.
- Leavitt said that at the time of pick up, the rejection would already occur. The best time to inspect would be at the time of application.
- Hillary Peterson asked about the possibility of a punch card system for when containers have been properly rinsed.
- Adams said the onus cannot be on Nutrien to enforce.

5. 2025 IPM Program Update and 2026 Funding Request

Annual report on 2025 IPM Program activities and funding request to continue mosquito monitoring and promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in 2026.

Presentation By: Hillary Peterson, Ph.D., IPM Specialist

Action Needed: Discussion, Approve/Disapprove

- Peterson informed the Board of the IPM Program's use of their 2025 budget. Developments were made to the mosquito surveillance process as a new system to process species data was used. No sampled mosquitoes showed signs of the West Nile virus or EEE. New high-quality photos of mosquitoes have been taken to help with identification. The new hire in the IPM Program worked on updating the vacuum used for mosquito sampling.
- Peterson also informed the Board of outreach tactics and developments. A speaker database has been made to more easily find presentations for different meetings. Peterson mentioned plans for an IPM calendar project. The goal would be to have IPM task lists that sync with a homeowner's digital calendar.
- Peterson asked the Board for \$87,522.00 for the IPM Project's 2026 budget. This would include a study on SMART rodent boxes in schools. SMART rodent boxes have 24/7 logs of rodent activities. This would give data on where rodents enter schools and where IPM practices would be most effective.
- Carlton noticed the IPM Program's mosquito monitoring was localized in Kennebec and advocated for spreading south.

- Peterson pointed out that other agencies were covering southern monitoring.
- Bohlen asked if there was no detection of WNV and EEE from Peterson's study or from across the board.
- Peterson said it was just her studies.
- Fish mentioned the mosquito numbers were down during 2025 due to the dryness.
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- **Gray/Carlton: Moved and seconded to approve budget as presented.**
- **In Favor: Unanimous.**

Adams called for a 5-minute break

6. 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 review of the draft preliminary report due to the ACF committee on January 15, 2026. The Board has sought additional input from stakeholders. This item will include a dialogue with stakeholders present.

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

- Peacock introduced Mike Peasley, a stakeholder who told Peacock about a new piece of legislature being discussed in New Hampshire which would restrict all rodenticides.
- Peacock noted that IFW's lead biologist was unavailable to join the meeting but is willing to come to future meetings.
- Adams asked the stakeholders to help the Board to understand the consequences that could come from restricting rodenticides.
- Peasley spoke about how other states have restricted use of rodenticides to professional applicators. He acknowledged that applicators could misapply, but that it is less likely than when homeowners apply themselves. He also brought up that applicators can be held accountable in ways homeowners cannot.
- Adams asked what the net impact on the rodent population would be if the unregulated community was restricted.
- Peasley thought that the less readily accessible the products are, the general population would increase. This would also create an inequality for those who cannot afford to hire an applicator.
- Adams asked if there would be a difference between interior use and exterior use.
- Peasley asked how they would enforce the proper use. It is more effective to use exterior as once a rodent enters the home; it will contaminate food and leave droppings. If a rodent is already in the home, though, it will not voluntarily leave.
- Carlton mentioned there was a woman who had to leave her home because of a rat infestation. He suggested they start with prevention and put onus on towns and homeowners to keep places clean.

- Peterson brought up her experience with the town of Howland's response to their rodent population. Howland doesn't have weekly trash pickups due to lack of funds, so they adopted a twice-per-year junk pickup to help. Peterson suggested creating a fund that towns can apply for to receive help.
- Cunningham from Tomcat spoke about the products they register for consumers. None of their products contain anti-coagulant agents and all bait must be sold with a station.
- Adams theorized restricting second-generation rodenticides wouldn't have a big effect on the general population.
- Van Hoewyk said that there is no real study on how a ban on rodenticides would effect rodent population. It is difficult to gather accurate information
- Gayoso asked if anyone had seen if there was an increase in diseases carried by rodents.
- Adams asked if it was true that consumers can't buy second-generation anti-coagulants.
- Peacock said that while they cannot be sold in hardware stores, they can be found at agricultural supply stores. Even if it is labeled for agricultural use, there is nothing in place to prevent stores from selling anti-coagulants to the general public.
- Adams summarized that the greatest risk is second-generation anti-coagulants and that it sounded like there wouldn't be a large negative impact on the general population.
- Peterson added that when someone goes to buy their usual rodenticide only to find it gone, it would be a great opportunity to display educational resources.
- Gray suggested the Board avoid blanket statements that can be used to restrict new developments in active ingredients.
- Vacchiano informed the Board that there are currently 8 baits and 1 birth control product under 25B.
- Adams reminded the Board of the discussion to have applicators leave identifying information on the bait stations they place.
- Peacock added that landscaping equipment can move weighed down bait stations and the identifying information would help with enforcement and accountability.
- Adams asked which chapter the rodenticide restriction would fall under.
- Boyd said that if the active ingredients themselves were listed, they would fall under Chapter 40.
- Adams asked the staff to bring a draft of the updated Chapter 40 to the next board meeting.

7. 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 review of the draft preliminary report due to the ACF committee on January 15, 2026.

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

- Peacock told the Board the RFP has been published.
- Boyd expected proposals to start coming in on December 29th
- Bohlen suggested that staff consider the target audience of the report when writing it as there are complex topics that may be hard to understand.
- Peacock planned to submit the report next week as required. The final report is due on January 15th, 2026.
- Bohlen thanked the staff for the work put into the two reports.

8. Overview of Newly Approved Active Ingredients by USEPA

Presentation about 7 new pesticide active ingredients recently approved for use by USEPA.

Presentation By: Julia Vacchiano, Pesticide Registrar & Doug Van Hoewyk, Ph.D.,
Pesticide Toxicologist

Action Needed: None; Discussion

- Vacchiano informed the Board of 7 proposed products up for registration that included a new active ingredient, isocycloseram. They need the Board's approval before she can register them. Some of the products are pouches and others are GMOs.
- Van Hoewyk presented the science behind isocycloseram.
- Bohlen asked clarifying questions about the toxicology report and studies presented.
- Adams asked if the ingredient needed to be approved today.
- Vacchiano said it did not need to be approved today, but that in 90 days it would automatically be registered.
- Jenn Lund, the state apiarist, said that she researched the Varroa miteicide for control of varroa mites in hives and had no concerns.
- Heather Spaulding representing MOFGA asked about the PFAS in the new active ingredient, as she felt the report understated that aspect.
- Van Hoewyk said that by Maine's definition, it was considered a PFAS but not by the EPA's.
- Gray said he didn't see a reason not to approve them with the current rules.
 - **Gray/Fanning: Moved and seconded to approve active ingredient registration.**
 - **In Favor: Adams, Carlton, and Neavyn**
 - **Opposed: Bohlen**

9. Other Old and New Business

- a. Chapter 50: Record Keeping and Reporting Requirements, Annual Summary Report by Commercial Applicators and Annual Pesticide Sales Reports must now be submitted electronically.
- b. Obsolete Pesticide Collections 2025

- Peacock informed the Board that over 6,000 pounds of materials were collected.

- Boyd told the Board that the BPC's contract with the collection service was up. A new RFP would be needed, and changes may be seen in future collections.
- c. USEPA Updates Review on Potential Paraquat Volatilization and Plans to Request Additional Data from Manufacturers
- d. Draft Policy regarding elements of Continuing Education Credit Classes

10. Schedule of Future Meetings

The next scheduled Board meeting date is January 14, 2025, at the Ag trade show, Augusta

Future Meetings: February 27, 2026, April 10, 2026, May 22, 2026 (Memorial Day Weekend), or May 29, 2026.

Adjustments and/or Additional Dates?

11. Adjourn

- **Bohlen/Carlton: Moved and seconded to adjourn at 12:06 pm**
- **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.