



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday October 16 2009

DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO USE LEFTOVER IPU

Farmers or agronomists who discover products in farm stores containing the herbicide isoproturon (IPU) should arrange for prompt and proper disposal and not be tempted to use or recommend it under any circumstances, The Voluntary Initiative (VI) warned today.

UK approval for all products containing IPU was revoked by ministers on March 19 2007 after a review of its impact on the aquatic environment. Farmers had until June 30 2009 to use up or dispose of any remaining stocks. Use or storage after that date is now illegal.

Patrick Goldsworthy, VI Manager, said: "If anyone finds any products containing IPU still lurking in farm stores they must not be tempted, under any circumstances, to use or recommend them. The only option is to arrange for prompt and proper disposal through a waste disposal contractor.

"All farmers need to act responsibly when using pesticides. Water quality monitoring is increasing and both regulators and water companies will be monitoring for IPU. Minute quantities of pesticides can be detected and so if any IPU is used, even in very small quantities, it will quickly be detected. This will undermine confidence in the industry's ability to comply with regulation let alone deliver voluntary measures. In addition, if the farmer is identified this could mean loss of single farm payments and enforcement action."

Notes to editors:

1. The Voluntary Initiative is a programme of measures, agreed with Government, to minimise the environmental impacts of pesticides.
2. The sponsors of The Voluntary Initiative are the Agricultural Engineers Association, Agricultural Industries Confederation, Country Land and Business Association, Crop Protection Association, National Association of Agricultural Contractors, the NFU, NFU Scotland and the Ulster Farmers Union. Since 2001, over £73 million has been invested in the VI by the agricultural industry.
3. To check approval status of any product visit Chemicals Regulation Directorate's approvals database at www.pesticides.gov.uk.
4. Any unapproved leftover product must be disposed of through a waste disposal contractor. Local contractors can be identified at www.wasterecycling.org.uk.

Contacts:

www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk

Patrick Goldsworthy, Voluntary Initiative Manager, 07711 416 312,
patrick@goldsworthyassociates.com,

NFU – Paul Chambers: 02476 858522

AIC - Hazel Doonan: 01733 385251,

Issued by the NFU, Agriculture House, Stoneleigh Park, Stoneleigh,
Warwickshire, CV8 2TZ. Press Officer: Chris Pryke
Telephone: 024 7685 8686 FAX: 024 7685 8651 ISDN: 02476 416289
[Http://www.nfuonline.com](http://www.nfuonline.com)