

D R A F T

Dear Association Member:

DON'T USE SALVAGED OIL

The use of salvaged oil, which is likely to contain hazardous contaminants, is potentially dangerous and can lead to contamination of the food supply and economic loss to producers and processors. It can also be hazardous to workers who handle it.

In a recent Kansas incident, salvaged oil was used for about eight years on a farm in an automatic applicator to apply pesticide to cattle for fly control. Not until over 50 head died at once was it discovered that the oil contained high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), a class of highly-toxic chemicals which has been widely used in oil mixtures in transformers and other electrical equipment. The PCB's had contaminated the entire herd, which had to be destroyed. Even more serious, cattle raised on this farm over the eight-year period were presumed to have been exposed to the PCB's and could have introduced potentially dangerous and illegal residues into the meat supply.

Other potential contaminants of salvaged oil include lead and other heavy metals, and toxic oil additives. Don't use salvaged oil if the source is not known to be safe.

We suggest that you contact the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for advice on disposing of salvaged oil.

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