

Use the right chemicals for the right job



Dairy farmers are reminded that chemicals used on farms, including those used to clean and sanitise your plant and milk vats, must be registered with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Dairy Australia's Regulatory Affairs Manager, Kira Goodall, said that recent isolated incidences of unregistered products being marketed to farmers or farmers inadvertently using chemicals for the wrong purpose, were concerning for the whole industry.

"All agricultural and veterinary chemicals must be registered with the APVMA and should be used as instructed on the label. Check the label and make sure you are using the right chemical for the right job," Ms Goodall warned.

Chemical use and chemical residues have also been an increasing focus for international customers in recent years.

"Given our market sensitivity, safety and reputation the industry does have concerns about this issue and dairy farmers should be wary when buying chemicals for their farms," Ms Goodall said.

"By using unregistered chemicals or not using registered chemicals according to label directions, farmers risk wasting time and money on products that don't work and are potentially harmful for cows, farm

staff and people who drink the milk."

Using unregistered products is also against the law, not to mention farm Food Safety Plans and Quality Assurance Schemes. Appropriate chemical use can and will be checked as part of farm audits.

Fonterra Australia Quality Manager - Milk Supply, Lisa Archer, said dairy customers trust that their food is safe. Appropriate, on-label use of registered chemicals will ensure consumer trust is maintained.

"Any incident that affects this trust could also reduce the value of milk products for the entire industry," she said.

Parmalat National Raw Milk Quality and Compliance Manager, Sarah Carter, said the chemical registration process benefits everyone.

"Consumers can trust that the dairy products they purchase are safe to eat and drink, and farmers can be confident that the chemicals they're using are going to do the job effectively to keep the milk they produce at the highest quality possible."



For more information go to www.dairyaustralia.com.au/farm/animal-management/milking/milk-quality

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How do I know?

Legally registered agricultural and veterinary chemicals have an APVMA approval number printed on the label.

The label will also include clear instructions for when and how to use the chemical.

If you want to check if a chemical is registered you can always go to the APVMA website or app at: portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris