

# “AVITROL” USERS

June 2008

Spring is here and the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA) has again started receiving phone calls from the public about pigeon control. The majority of those who call are concerned about the erratic behavior and/or death of pigeons treated with Avitrol, effects on non-target birds, and careless and/or incomplete applications of Avitrol. Since last month, a fairly large number of complaints / concerns have been received by the NDOA's Las Vegas office staff. Staff diligently investigates all verbal and written complaints involving dead or dying birds, especially if there is a concern of careless and/or improper Avitrol use.

To date, investigations have documented label violations including: **not picking up dead and dying birds; mortality of non-target birds, improper baiting techniques and Avitrol bait exposure to the public.**

As stated in the December 2007 letter mailed with your Pest Control License renewal, the NDOA is closely monitoring Avitrol use and has increased its enforcement efforts for those who misuse it. Penalties for “serious violations” involving Avitrol will most likely result in expensive fines.

The NDOA fully understands and recognizes Avitrol as a vital tool in the integrated approach to pest bird management. Misuse and excessive complaints coupled with negative publicity may jeopardize Avitrol's availability, thereby reducing the pest control industry's options for effective pest bird management. With that said, to better regulate Avitrol users, the NDOA has reviewed industry comments, existing pest control regulations, and Avitrol's current label. Based on this review, when Avitrol is used the NDOA will be looking to see if companies are following label directions and keeping records of:

- ✓ careful observations of pre-bait and bait feeding behaviors to ensure efficacy and to protect non-target birds from being exposed to the bait. (Written records documenting the presence or absence of target bird numbers, amount of pre-bait and bait consumed by target birds, cancellation, or postponing of service if non-target birds are feeding on pre-bait or bait, etc.)
- ✓ regular patrols to ensure prompt removal of dead or dying pigeons.
- ✓ daily pick-up of un-eaten bait (Uneaten bait must not be exposed in any manner that may endanger desirable or protected species. Therefore at the end of each day any leftover bait must be picked up.)
- ✓ pre-baiting prior to each treatment must be done with no lapse between the pre-baiting cycle and baiting cycle. (Again, written records will verify compliance).
- ✓ Avitrol Corn Chops **CANNOT** be used for pigeon control! Use only Whole Corn!

The NDOA cannot stress enough that any complaint received involving Avitrol will be investigated and if violations of the above (label or NAC/NRS's) are found, expensive fines for any “serious violations” will likely be assessed.

**GOOD** records are essential, especially when defending against a complaint!

If you have any questions regarding this notice, contact:

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