Board Enforcement Case Pre-Review
Background Summary
November 13, 2026

Subject:

Butler Farms
650 Van Buren Rd.
Limestone, ME 04750

Summary of Complaints/Incidents:
BPC's 2024 Enforcement Protocol, Section 6(b) requires that "patterns of repeat offenses by the same entity shall be presented to the Board prior to negotiating an administrative consent agreement."

On October 8, 2025, BPC received a complaint regarding a burn pile in Caswell, which appeared to include pesticide containers. They also observed fumigant canisters lying in a grassy field, improperly stored. On October 10, 2025, the BPC District 5 (Aroostook County) pesticide inspector met with the landowner, Clayton Roy, since the farmer/applicator, Bret Butler, was busy harvesting. Mr. Roy showed the inspector the burn pit. Some pesticide containers had been removed from the burn pit since the date of the complaint. The inspector looked through the burn pit and made note of pesticides still found within. Mr. Roy also showed the inspector the location of the fumigant canisters (aka "pigs"), which were identified as Strike 85CP, EPA Reg #87994-6, active ingredient chloropicrin, which is a hazardous, skull and crossbones Restricted Use Pesticide fumigant, which, according to the label, can be fatal if inhaled and has the potential to cause adverse acute health effects over a wide area. The inspector took photos of the partially burned photos as well as the chloropicrin pigs that appeared to have been in the field for some time; a wasp nest was observed on one of them.

It should be noted that burning of pesticide containers is considered a violation of pesticide labels that only allow burning if allowed by the state. In Maine, open burning of plastics is prohibited; therefore, burning of pesticide containers in open burn pits violates the label requirements. Labels often allow for incineration, but that must occur within an incinerator.

After much difficulty getting in touch with Mr. Butler, the pesticide inspector was able to schedule an inspection, which was conducted on October 24, 2025. Mr. Butler provided written statements addressing the inspector's observations of burned pesticide containers and improperly stored chloropicrin pigs. Mr. Butler's statement states that the small number of burned containers was due to an employee mistake and that they typically do not burn pesticide containers. Mr. Butler also stated to the inspector that he believed there was an agricultural exemption that allowed farmers to ignore certain pesticide label requirements. Regarding the chloropicrin pigs, Mr. Butler's stated that he believed the storage in the field was compliant with the label and that their storage in the field was only temporary.

Please see the attached inspector's report for more details on the 2025 incident.

In October 2026, the BPC Compliance Manager asked the District 5 pesticide inspector to conduct a follow-up inspection on Bret Butler at the site of the 2025 complaint. Because Mr. Butler's applicator's license expired in October 2025 and was never renewed, the Compliance Manager wanted to find out if pesticides had been used in 2026, as well as to make sure they were no longer burning pesticide containers or improperly storing fumigants.

The pesticide inspector did not find pesticides in the burn pit or any fumigant canisters, but did find other items of concern, such as some potatoes stored next to pesticide containers, including paraquat. Additionally, there was plenty of evidence suggesting that pesticides, including RUPs, had been applied in 2026 despite Mr. Butler not having renewed his applicator's license or having obtained enough credits for the renewal. The inspector also found numerous unrinsed pesticide containers, as well as a large pesticide tote that was cut open and used to dispose of waste, which is a violation of label directions prohibiting reuse of the container.

The inspector made multiple attempts to reach Mr. Butler but was only able to speak with an employee of Mr. Butler. As of November 3, 2026, BPC staff have attempted to reach Mr. Butler through word of mouth, by phone, and by email, with no success. BPC has attempted to make Mr. Butler aware that BPC has the right to issue a subpoena to review his pesticide records if he continues to ignore BPC's attempts to reach him. On November 5, 2026, Mr. Butler reached out to the District 5 inspector via text.

Summary of Relevant Rules and/or Laws:

- 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(2)(G) and 7 M.R.S. § 606(2)(B) prohibit the use or supervision of such use of a pesticide inconsistent with its label, including improper storage and disposal
- 22 M.R.S. § 1471-D(2) "No private applicator shall use or supervise the use of any limited or restricted use pesticide without prior certification from the board"
- 22 M.R.S. § 1471-D(2-D) "A private applicator of general use pesticides may not use or supervise the use of general use pesticides for food production without prior certification from the board, except that a competent person who is not certified may use such a pesticide under the direct supervision of a certified applicator."

Attachments:

1. Screenshot of 2025 complaint in PEGA/MEPERLS system
2. Abridged Inspector's Report 2025
3. Applicator Records & Operations Check 10/24/2025
4. Bret Butler's Statements 2025
5. Selection of Photos from 2025
6. Strike CP Fumigant EPA Reg #87994-6 label Storage and Disposal section
7. Linex 4L EPA Reg #61842-21 label Storage and Disposal section
8. Screenshot of 2026 complaint in PEGA/MEPERLS system
9. State Activity Inspection Report 10/20/2026
10. State Activity Inspection Report 10/30/2026
11. Selection of Photos from 2026

Dashboard
My Work
Reports
Configuration
Renewal Emails

Recent

Inquiry / Complaint EC-113857
Inspection RC-218806
Inspection RC-150875
Complaint COMPLAINT-4
Search Entity

Following

No cases are

Inquiry / Complaint (EC-113857)

Complaint | Overview | Caller | Inspections | Enforcements | Audit

Action Taken
Inspection Required

Finalized / Resolved ☐

Comments
—

Resolution Details
—

Complaint Details

EC-113857

First name
Clayton

Last name
Roy

Complaint Details
On October 8, 2025, BPC received an email from [redacted] regarding a burn pile in Caswell, which appeared to include pesticide containers. There were also containers of chloropicrin in a field, improperly stored. [redacted] did not wish to file a formal complaint but wanted to inform BPC in case there were any pesticide related "red flags."

Call Date/Time
—

Estimated Date of Incident
Oct 8, 2025

Urgency Level
Medium

Topic
Storage / Disposal

Site
Unknown

Application Method
Unknown

Complaint Physical Location

Address Line
—

Address Line 2
—

City
Caswell

Directions
western end of Pleasant Ridge Road in Caswell. Here is a pin of the site in Google Maps: https://maps.app.goo.gl/Hu6eoUqi86vG6q4D8

EC-113857 Inspector's Report – Butler Farms Complaint

Background Information: On October 8, 2025, the Maine Board of Pesticides Control received a complaint regarding a burn pit located in Caswell. Photos of the burn pit showed it to contain a large amount of pesticide containers, and the cardboard boxes the containers are stored in. Also included in the email were photos and concerns of improperly stored Chloropicrin containers. The photos showed that the green tanks were stored outside in some grass and were believed to be empty. The complainant was concerned about the improperly stored and disposed products and wanted the BPC to investigate it. The site was described as being on private property behind a gate on Pleasant Ridge Road in Caswell, on property owned by Clayton Roy. While Clayton still owns the land, it is now farmed by his grandson, Bret Butler. Bret's license (PPA-2865) was due to expire on October 31, 2025, at the time of inspection.

Complaint: Improper storage and disposal of pesticides, including the fumigant, Chloropicrin.

Investigation: Inspection #251010JLR01

I met with Clayton Roy at the gate on Pleasant Ridge Road in Caswell on October 10, 2025, at 9:00am. Clayton informed me of how he no longer farms, but still owns the land that his grandson, Bret Butler, grows potatoes on. When asked if Bret was available to meet with, Clayton stated that he was busy on a harvester. Clayton then took me down to the burn pit. The pit was still full of cardboard boxes with pesticide labels on them, but the plastic containers that were in the complainant's photos were gone. When I asked Clayton what happened to the containers, he informed me that Bret removed them from the burn pile the evening before, due to my arrival being scheduled for the next morning.

I took numerous sample photographs of the burn pit before putting on PPE and starting to dig through the burn pile. Numerous cardboard boxes of numerous different products were found, including herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, adjuvants, and defoamers. The burn pit also contained materials such as wood, metal, fabric, and garbage. While digging deeper, I was able to find burnt and melted plastic pesticide containers, some of which still had the label attached. Some of the plastic jugs still contained pesticide residues, which leaked onto the ground through burnt holes in the jugs. Clear evidence of several pesticides and adjuvants were located in the burn.

Four physical samples were collected from the burn site. These included two shipping receipts that I found with Bret Butler's name on them, showing products purchased from Nutrien Ag Solutions in Mapleton and Helena Agri Enterprises in Presque Isle. The other two physical samples were burned pesticide containers, with labels clearly

showing Linex 4L Herbicide (EPA Reg #61842-21) and a fungicide container where the product's name is illegible.

Once finished with the burn pit, Clayton took me to where the Chloropicrin tanks were. Just like in the photos from the complainant, 7 green Strike 85CP tanks (EPA Reg #87994-6) were laying horizontally in the grass near some old vehicles. Sample photographs were taken of the tanks. The grass around the tanks was long and untouched, making it appear that they had been sitting there for quite some time. One of the tanks even had a hornet's nest on it. Container labels of Stike 85CP were still attached to a majority of the tanks. I informed Clayton of the requirement that these tanks needed to be stored inside under lock and key, and how the tanks needed to be stored upright and secured to a wall. I showed the requirements to Clayton on the labels that were still attached to the tanks of the restricted use pesticide. I told Clayton that the tanks needed to be moved inside a secure building as soon as possible. I stressed the importance of moving these containers carefully and making sure they would be properly stored as the label requires.

I asked Clayton to take me to where the empty pesticide containers that were removed from the burn pit now being stored. Clayton wasn't sure where this was but brought me into a couple of garages to look. In these garages were pallets of stored, unused pesticides. While these products were at least stored in a building, there was a large amount of pigeon feces on the boxes. Clayton also informed me that the building's door does not lock, and there were no signs designating the building as a pesticide storage area. A majority of the products stored in this garage were for use with seed potatoes. Many pesticide products were observed in this garage, and photographs were taken of them in storage.

After looking through the garage, Clayton called Bret to ask where the empty containers from the burn pit had been moved too. Bret told him in a big metal container, which Clayton would then bring me too. Sample photographs were taken of the empty containers laying in the bottom of the metal container. Among the pesticide containers were lots of burnt and melted plastic.

Before leaving, I again reminded Clayton of how the Chloropicrin needed to be stored properly as soon as possible. I also informed Clayton that I would like to sit down with Bret and conduct a for-cause records check once he was done harvesting his potatoes.

Inspection #251021JLR02

After trying to contact Bret for 11 days without success, I called Clayton again to see if Bret was available. Clayton informed me that the Chloropicrin had been moved inside a

building, and the farm was done harvesting potatoes for the year. Clayton said he would show me the stored Chloropicrin.

I showed up to Clayton's gate on Pleasant Ridge Road in Caswell at 11:30am on October 21, 2025. I didn't see Clayton around yet, so I waited outside of my vehicle for him to show up. A man walked up to me and asked if I was looking for Clayton. He introduced himself as Bret Butler. I told Bret that I was meeting Clayton, but that I'd like to speak with him as well. Clayton would arrive a few moments later.

Bret and Clayton took us into a garage where the Chloropicrin was stored. Sample photographs were taken of the building and the stored chemicals. Borosol 10 Fertilizer and LI 700 Adjuvant were also observed in this garage along with the Strike 85CP Fumigant. While inside, the Chloropicrin was still stored horizontally, and the building did not lock or have signs indicating a pesticide storage area. I informed Bret that the Chloropicrin was still improperly stored according to the label. Bret said that everybody stores the tanks this way, and that nothing he has done is wrong. He tried explaining how there were "agricultural exemptions" with certain aspects of pesticide labels, and not everything that a label says needs to be followed by the farmer. I informed Bret that I had never heard of that and didn't believe that was true. Bret strongly objected to that and continued to defend his case. Post inspection phone calls with BPC Director Alex Peacock, BPC Compliance Manager Jose Gayoso, and former District 5 inspector Keith Brown would confirm to me that "agricultural exemptions" do not exist.

Bret had an important matter to deal with, so he left after looking over the stored Chloropicrin. Before leaving, however, we agreed to meet again later that week to conduct a for cause records check with the farm.

Inspection #251024JLR01

I met with Bret Butler (PPA-2865) and Dann Cyr (ABA-4762) at the farm's office located at 25 Pleasant Ridge Road in Caswell at 12:00pm on October 24th. Bret's applicator's license was due to expire on October 31, 2025, and he didn't have enough credits to renew. Compliance assistance was given to Bret on how to find online courses on the BPC's website. Bret informed me that he and Dann are the only ones on the farm who handle pesticides. Applications are made with a leased John Deere 4023R, which is calibrated by the Maine Potato Board.

Bret's application records showed that he applied 11 different pesticides to his potatoes in 2025, making applications to his 450 acres of Limestone fields on 10 different days. All recorded products were properly registered and applied at rates within the maximum labeled rates. Bret's records were adequate, only missing the rate per acre of

products applied. Bret knew the rates of the top of his head, and compliance assistance was given to ensure he records them in the future. Several pesticide products and pests controlled were listed in Bret's application records.

Bret did not have labels available for the Luna or Mirvais Prime. Information about these products would be taken from the product labels available on NPIRS. Bret also did not include adjuvants in his records. When asked what he uses, he stated he applied Aqua-Mate II with every application. This would later bring up other issues, as it was determined post inspection that this adjuvant is not registered in Maine. The company that sells the adjuvant was also not licensed as a General Use Dealer.

Bret wrote two statements during this inspection, one for the burn pit and the other for the Chloropicrin. He claimed that the chemical jugs located in the pile were placed there by mistake by an employee. Bret wrote, and explained to me, that the farm triple rinses their containers and disposes of them through the sanitation vendor who brings them to the landfill. He also discussed how the number of containers that was found in the burn pit is a very small percentage of the total amount of jugs they use in a season and even said "if I was to burn some pesticide containers, I would burn them all." Bret was adamant that no pesticide containers had been burned, and that the jugs found in the burn pit were placed there accidentally, with no intent to burn.

As for the Chloropicrin tanks, Bret admitted that he misunderstood the label. However, he did still defend that nothing was wrong with the way the "pigs" were stored. Bret used certain language in the label and factors of where they were stored to defend that the tanks were stored properly for Northern Maine climates. He also explained how the tanks were only recently moved to the area of grass. Bret said they were stored inside, until the farm needed to move a piece of equipment in the garage, in which the Chloropicrin tanks were in the way. However, the grass around the tanks did not appear to be disturbed when I took the sample photographs.

Back in the office, I looked at the pesticides Bret informed me he used on his potatoes versus the products I located in the burn pit. 13 products were found in the burn pit that Bret made no mention of using in 2025.

Inspection #251107JLR03

On November 4th, Bret texted me saying that he realized he forgot to show me the application records made to his seed potatoes. He said he keeps a separate logbook for the seed potatoes to keep the books clean and it's easier for his seed customers. We agreed to meet on the 7th to conduct another records check inspection. I met with Bret Butler at his office located at 25 Pleasant Ridge Road in Caswell at 1:00pm on November 7,

2025. A records check was conducted for products he applied to his 60 acres of seed potatoes in 2025. Only foliar applications were recorded in the logbook, and compliance assistance was given to Bret informing him that in-furrow applications need to be recorded as well. Like with the table stock potato application records, adjuvants were not included in the logbook. When asked, Bret said he applied the unregistered Aqua-mate II, along with LI 700 and Dyne-Amic as adjuvants throughout the year. Several pesticides were recorded in the logbook and applied on 11 different days for control of certain pests to Bret's seed potatoes.

Now that I had information on all products that Bret applied in 2025, I asked him about a few of the remaining products that I could remember finding in the burn pit that weren't in any records. When asked about the Averland FC Insecticide (EPA Reg #89118-10, RUP) Bret said that he had used it for control of Colorado Potato Beetles but evidently forgot to include it in both of his application logbooks. Another product that Bret forgot to include in his records was Organic JMS Stylet Oil (EPA Reg #65564-1). Compliance assistance was given to Bret about the importance of including every application of every product in his logbook.

While reviewing the labels that were part of this inspection, it was discovered that Lamcap II Insecticide (EPA Reg #100-1295) had a maximum labeled rate of 1.92floz/acre for use on potatoes. Bret's application records show that he applied the Restricted Use Pesticide at 2floz/acre.

Conclusion

Multiple violations arose out of this complaint, with the major issues being the Chloropicrin storage and the empty pesticide container disposal.

The Strike 85 CP Fumigant label clearly states in the Storage and Disposal section that the pesticide needs to be stored in a dry, cool, and well-ventilated area under lock and key. The area also needs to be posted as a pesticide storage area. The label goes on to say that the cylinders need to be stored upright and secured to prevent tipping. These requirements were not followed by Butler Farms, as the tanks were stored laying horizontally outside in the elements. It is unknown how long the "pigs" were stored in this condition. While Bret Butler states the tanks were recently moved to their position in the grass, the undisturbed tall grass says otherwise. When the tanks were moved inside after the first inspection, it is unclear how they were moved. The label states certain ways of transporting the cylinders, as it is very important that they are not damaged or roughly handled. Storage violations still occurred once the tanks were moved inside of the building.

Evidence found at the burn site shows that empty pesticide containers were in fact burned, and they appear to have not been properly triple rinsed. Burnt and melted pesticide containers were pulled out from the bottom of the burn, and even more were removed from the burn by Bret Butler prior to my arrival. Many of these containers still had labels attached, and most still had pesticide residue inside. Maine law probits the burning of pesticide containers and enforces that containers are triple rinsed before being properly disposed of.

The total amount of pesticide containers burned is unknown. Sales records from Nutrien and Helena do show that the number of whole containers discovered in the burn pit was just a fraction of the total amount of pesticides purchased by the farm in 2025, and the sanitation company did say that they picked up empty containers from Butler's dumpster. However, there is clear evidence that some containers were burned. With the amount of debris located on the burn pile, it's impossible to determine if more containers or melted plastic would have been located by digging down into the pile. Containers could have been burned throughout the summer, leaving just the most recently emptied containers on top of the burn pile.

Issues arose with Butler Farms' pesticide storage as well, and not just with the Chloropicrin. The one garage that Clayton took me into during the first inspection did not lock and was not posted as a pesticide storage area, even though many pesticides were stored there. The garage was not clean, and sample photographs show this, including the pigeon feces on top of the stored pesticides. Some of the labels of products stored there state that the building must be heated and well ventilated during the seasons, which this garage did not appear to be. Some of the labels also list the requirement that some products cannot be stored next to other products.

Butler Farms' application records were not in compliance with BPC regulations. Numerous applications were not recorded in the applicator's logbook, including in-furrow applications to seed pieces and foliar applications of Restricted Use Pesticides. In Butler's situation, it would have gone completely unnoticed that these pesticides were used in certain applications if it wasn't for finding the product's containers in the burn pit and questioning Bret about their usage. Adjuvants applied were not included in the logbook. Product use rates were also not included in the records, as Bret claimed to remember the use rates off the top of his head.

An overapplication of at least one pesticide occurred on Butler Farm's in 2025. Lamcap II (EPA Reg #100-1295), which is a Restricted Use Insecticide, was applied at 2floz/acre, when the label lists the maximum rate at 1.92floz/acre.

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECORDS & OPERATIONS CHECK

Inspected Company/Agency
sample text

sample text

Company/Agency Name
Butler Farms

Company/Agency Type
NFH

Category
Farm

Address Line
650 Van Buren Rd

City
Limestone

Primary Phone

Email

Contact First Name
Bret

Contact Last Name
Butler

Type and size of operation:
800 acres of Potatoes in Limestone and Caswell

Branch Offices in Maine
N/A

LICENSING

Formatted Text
no value

☐ None required ☑ Private required ☐ Commercial required

Firm Address(If different than notice)

Address Line 1
25 Pleasant Ridge Road

City
Caswell

State
ME

Postal Code
04750

Master Name

Category/Commodity

Master License

Firm License
SCF

Master License

Applicator Details

Add item
Delete

	Applicator Name	License	Categories
1	Bret Butler	PPA-2865	Potato & Grain
2	Dann Cyr	ABA-4762	Potato & Grain

ALL APPLICATORS

no value

Do you have obsolete pesticides?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

no value

Aware of Hazard Communication Standard?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Worker Protection Standard

Formatted Text
no value

False NA

no value

CID

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ NA

no value

Training

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ NA

no value

Emergency assistance

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

- ○ NA

no value

Handler PPE

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ NA

no value

Decontamination Sites

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ NA

no value

Worker/Handler Notification

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ NA

no value

Employer Information Exchange

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ NA

Pesticide Storage & Disposal

no value

Recommended signs?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

no value

Does pesticide storage meet label requirements?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

no value

State Regulations?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Unused pesticides, whether in sealed or open containers, must be kept in a secure enclosure and otherwise maintained so as to prevent unauthorized use, mishandling or loss; and so as to prevent contamination of the environment and risk to the public health. CMR 01-026 Chapter 20 Sec. 3(A)
no value

GUP purchased in Maine? If no, name & address of dealer.

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ NA

Comments
no value

no value

RUP/LUP purchased in Maine? If no, name & address of dealer.

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ NA

Comments
no value

no value

Are empty containers triple rinsed?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ NA

no value

What do you do with rinseate and with unused pesticide solutions?

Comments
Back into Spray Tank

Application Equipment

no value

☐ Fixed Wing

no value

☐ Rotary Wing

no value

☐ Airblast

no value

☑ Boom

no value

☐ Hose

no value

☐ Mist Blower

no value

☐ Granular Spreader

no value

☐ Powered Back Pack

no value

☐ Radiarc

no value

no value

☐ Fogger

no value

☐ Other Powered

no value

☐ Hand Can

no value

☐ Spreader

no value

☐ Bait

no value

☐ Non-powered Back Pack

no value

☐ Other non-powered

no value

☐ Fumigation

no value

☐ Chemigation

no value

☐ Injection

☐ Direct to Water Body

no value

Where do you mix and load pesticides?

Comments
At Site

no value

How do you fill your tank with water?

Comments
Water Pump from Well Water

no value

Are shutoff/backflow prevention valves adequate?

◉ Yes
○ No
○ NA

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT R = Required A=Available (For reviewed pesticides)

Long sleeve shirt	☑ R	☑ A
Long pants	☑ R	☑ A
Shoes/socks	☑ R	☑ A
Chemical resistant boots	☑ R	☐ A
Coveralls	☑ R	☐ A
Chemical resistant suit	☐ R	☐ A
Gloves	☐ R	☐ A
Waterproof gloves	☐ R	☐ A
Chemical Resistant gloves	☑ R	☑ A
Chemical Resistant Headwear	☐ R	☐ A
Chemical Resistant Apron	☐ R	☐ A
Protective Eyewear	☐ R	☑ A
Respirator	☐ R	☐ A
Closed system	☐ R	☐ A
PPE available in enclosed cab	☐ R	☐ A

no value

Is PPE stored away from pesticides?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

no value

Is PPE maintained and cleaned as required?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

no value

Does employer review labels for required PPE?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ NA

no value

Does employer supply required PPE?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) NA

Private Applicators

Formatted Text
no value

True None

no value

Describe any pesticide applications you do for others, or that you hire done, and the system of payment.

Comments
no value

GreenHouses

Formatted Text
no value

True NA

no value

Are pesticides applied through a hose or irrigation system? If yes, check label requirements.

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No

no value

Are total release aerosols used? If yes, check volumetric rate requirements on label.

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No

no value

Are pesticides labeled for specific sites/crops? If no, use is inconsistent with labeling.

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

COMMERCIAL APPLICATORS

Formatted Text

no value

True NA

no value

Appropriate signs for turf, ornamental, outdoor structural and forestry applications ?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ NA

no value

Unlicensed applicator under direct voice and visual supervision by licensed commercial applicator?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ NA

no value

Insurance certificate?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ NA

Record Details

no value

Are records maintained for two years?

- ◉ Yes
- ◯ No

no value

Reviewed by Inspector? If no, explain in comments.

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Comments

no value

no value

- [x] Application Method

no value

- [x] Brand name of pesticide

no value

- [x] Active ingredient(s)

no value

- [x] EPA registration #

no value

- [x] REI or Ventilation

no value

- [x] Applicator name

no value

- [x] Applicator license #

no value

- [x] Date of application

no value

no value

- [x] Size of treated area

no value

- [x] Target pest

no value

- [x] Site or crop treated

no value

- [x] Sensitive areas noted

no value

- [x] Wind speed & direction

no value

- [x] Temperature

no value

- [x] Sky conditions

no value

- [ ] Total amount of RUP

no value

- [x] Time of application

no value

- [x] Town of application

no value

- [x] Site name or description

- [ ] Application rate GUP

no value

- [x] Sprayer calibration

Year surveyed below:
2025

Crop/Site Surveyed:
Potatoes

no value

Crop acreage:

- ( ) <10
- ( ) 10-50
- (•) >50

Add item
Delete

*Bearing/Nonbearing, Preemergent, Prebloom,Third leaf stage etc. **Broadcast, Directed, , Spot, Chemigation

	Brand name of pesticides used	EPA Reg.#	RUP	Rate	Date applied	Pest	Crop Stage*	Apps/ crop	Application Type
1	Linex 4L Herbicide	61842-21	False	1pt/acre	Jun 6, 2025	Weeds	Preemerge	1	Boom
2	Me-Try-Buzin 75DF Herbicide	19713-705	False	.66lbs/acre	Jun 6, 2025	Weeds	Preemerge	1	Boom
3	Bravo Weather Stik Fungicide	66222-276	False	1.3pts/acre	Jun 27, 2025	Late Blight	Prebloom	1	Boom
4	Bravo Weather Stik Fungicide	66222-276	False	1.5pts/acre	Jul 7, 2025	Blight	Prebloom	1	Boom
5	Luna Tranquility Fungicide	264-1085	False	11.2floz/acre	Jul 7, 2025	Blight	Prebloom	1	Boom
6	Bravo Weather Stik Fungicide	66222-276	False	1.5pts/acre	Jul 17, 2025	Blight	Prebloom	1	Boom
7	Previcure Flex Fungicide	264-678	False	1pt/acre	Jul 17, 2025	Blight	Prebloom	1	Boom
8	Minecto Pro Insecticide	100-1592	True	10floz/acre	Jul 17, 2025	Colorado Potato Beetle	Prebloom	1	Boom
9	Bravo Weather Stik Fungicide	66222-276	False	1.5pts/acre	Jul 31, 2025	Blight	Prebloom	1	Boom
10	Miravis Prime Fungicide	100-1603	False	10oz/acre	Jul 31, 2025	Blight	Prebloom	1	Boom
11	Bravo Weather Stik Fungicide	66222-276	False	1.5pts/acre	Aug 11, 2025	Blight	Postbloom	1	Boom
12	Revus Top Fungicide	100-1278	False	6.5floz/acre	Aug 11, 2025	Blight	Postbloom	1	Boom
13	Bravo Weather Stik Fungicide	66222-276	False	1.5pts/acre	Aug 20, 2025	Blight	Postbloom	1	Boom
14	Sefina Inscalis Insecticide	7969-391	False	3oz/acre	Aug 20, 2025	Aphids	Postbloom	1	Boom
15	Revus Top Fungicide	100-1278	False	7floz/acre	Sep 1, 2025	Blight	Postbloom	1	Boom
16	Bravo Weather Stik Fungicide	66222-276	False	1.5pts/acre	Sep 12, 2025	Blight	Postbloom	1	Boom
17	Sprout Stop Liquid Growth Retardent	19713-2	False	1.15gallon/acre	Sep 12, 2025	Growth Inhibitor	Preharvest	1	Boom
18	Reglone Herbicide	100-1061	False	.75pts/acre	Sep 29, 2025	Top Kill	Preharvest	1	Boom

Comments. Suggestions for the Board of Pesticides Control.
Records for Limestone Fields-450 acres
Applications made with a John Deere 4023R
Records did not include adjuvants; Aqua-Mate II applied at 1.5pts/100 gallons of water with every application

Provide supporting details and documents.

Physical Samples Taken

Sample Number	Sample Description	Sample Type	Date of Submission	Result	Lab Location	Analysis Completion Date
No items						

Add Physical Sample

Documentary Samples

Sample Number	Sample Description	
251024JLR01A	Calibration Log and Pesticide Key	Delete
251024JLR01B	Application Records	Delete
251024JLR01C	Minecto Pro Label and Labeling	Delete
251024JLR01D	Sprout Stop Label and Labeling	Delete
251024JLR01E	Previcure Flex Label and Labeling	Delete
251024JLR01F	Revus Top Label and Labeling	Delete

Sample Number	Sample Description	
251024JLR01G	Sefina Label and Labeling	Delete
251024JLR01H	Bravo Weather Stik Label and Labeling	Delete
251024JLR01I	Me-Try-Buzin 75DF Label and Labeling	Delete
251024JLR01J	Linex 4L Label and Labeling	Delete
251024JLR01K	Reglone Label and Labeling	Delete

Add Documentary Sample

Reportable Data

Number of Documentary Samples Collected
9

Supporting Documents

(17)

Loading...

Brief Summary of Inspection
This inspection was conducted using paper forms (converted to pdf and attached). Data from paper forms was transferred to PEGA format post-inspection in the office. Required signatures can be seen on the attached pdf forms.

Conducted a for cause records check with Bret Butler, owner of Butler Farms, at the farm's office located at 25 Pleasant Ridge Road in Caswell. The inspection took place at 12:00pm on October 24, 2025. The reason for the inspection was to conduct a follow up due to the improperly stored Chloropicrin tanks and improperly disposed pesticide containers found on the farm.

A more detailed report of the inspection can be seen in the Inspector's Report.

Recommendations
no value

Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement:

The physical and/or documentary samples listed above were collected by a Maine Board of Pesticides Control Representative in connection with administration of FIFRA and/or State of Maine Pesticide Statutes and Regulations.

Accept Clear

no value

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY STATEMENT FORM	Address: BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL Deering Bldg, AMHI 28 State House Station Augusta ME 04333 Tel: 207/287-2731 Case No. EC-113857

~~Elect~~ Bret Butler - Butler Farms

In this case the chemical jugs that ended up on a "burn pile" were purely put there by mistake. 99.9% of the time our jugs / chemical totes are tripled rinsed and disposed of through our sanitation vendor who then brings them to the landfill. Everyweek we fill or nearly fill the garbage truck with empty jugs. We have two plastic pallet boxes that sit beside our dumpster that serve the sole purpose of collecting empty chemical jugs. The amount of jugs found on said "burn pile" is ~~a very small~~ a very very very small % of total jugs we use. There were no burnt jugs or boxes at the burn pile and there was not intention on burning them. Just an employee who was unsure of what to do with the waste and instead of asking, took it upon himself to dispose of boxes. In conclusion, this farm always disposes of chemical jugs in the correct manner and these undamaged jugs that were found on a "burn pile" were 100% a mistake. This event has ensured that this will never take place again due to its time consumption and awareness to the environment.

Signature	Date
Bret R. Butler	10/24/2025
Inspector's Signature	Date
[signature]	10/24/2025

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

STATEMENT FORM

Address: BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
Deering Bldg, AMHI
28 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333 Tel: 207/287-2731

Case No. EC-113857

Bret Butler - Butler Farms

In this Incident pertaining to the "improper storage" of chloropicrin, I admit, now that I have read the correct lable that there were steps misunderstood and misleading. I head no intentions violating any laws when agreeing to store these chemical containers. The law requires that the "PIGS" be under lock and Key, which they were. ~~because the area~~ The "PIGS" were secured by a barb wire fence that went 360° around. The "PIGS" were also required to be in a "well ventilated area" which they were. The "PIGS" were outside and the lable does not specify ~~use~~ if they are to be in a building or not. The "PIGS" cannot exceed tempatures of 131°F or fall below -83.2°F. This means that the PIGS are fit to be outside in the northern maine climate or nearly any climate for that matter. The PIGS had also been recently moved so that we could access a piece of harvesting equipment. The area of grass in which they were reported was just a temporary resting area before they were to be moved back. I apologize for causing any type of potential harm and wasting state funds on a true misunderstanding of a very vague set of rules.

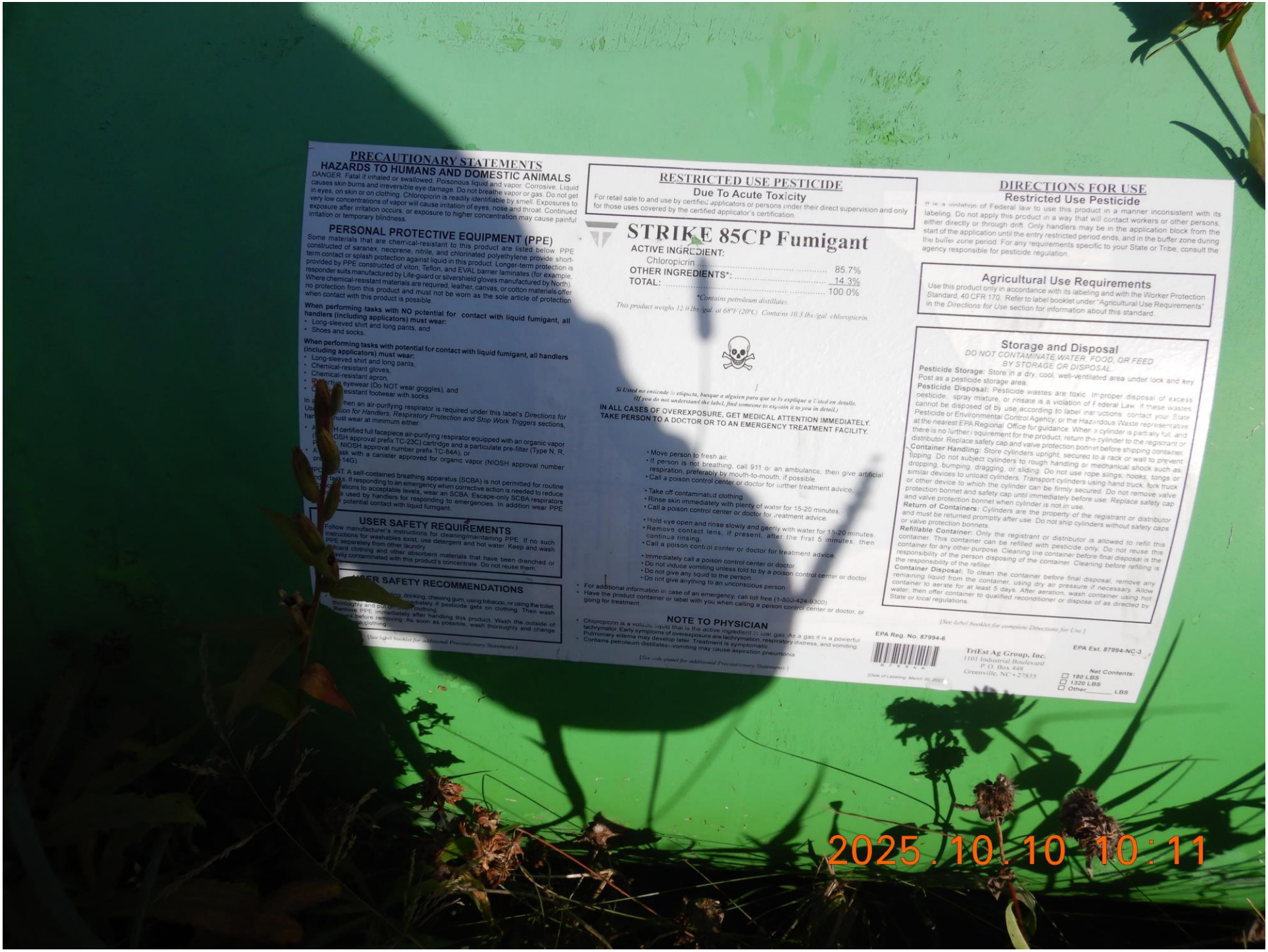
Signature Bret R. Butler	Date 10/24/2025
Inspector's Signature	Date 10/24/2025


FRAM

251010JLR01F- Strike 85 Fumigant Containers



251010JLR01F- Strike 85 Fumigant Containers



251010JLR01F- Strike 85 Fumigant Containers



251010JLR01F- Strike 85 Fumigant Containers



251010JLR01G- Pesticides stored inside old garage



251010JLR01G- Pesticides stored inside old garage



251010JLR01H- Burnt/melted/improperly stored pesticide containers removed from the burn pit prior to my arrival



BT502126333030

Linex® 4L

Agricultural Herbicide

LINURON

HERBICIDE

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

CAUTION

FIRST AID

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE

2025.10.10 09:36

Storage and Disposal

DO NOT CONTAMINATE WATER, FOOD, OR FEED BY STORAGE OR DISPOSAL.

Pesticide Storage: Store in a dry, cool, well-ventilated area under lock and key. Post as a pesticide storage area.

Pesticide Disposal: Pesticide wastes are toxic. Improper disposal of excess pesticide, spray mixture, or rinsate is a violation of Federal Law. If these wastes cannot be disposed of by use according to label instructions, contact your State Pesticide or Environmental Control Agency, or the Hazardous Waste representative at the nearest EPA Regional Office for guidance. When a cylinder is partially full, and there is no further requirement for the product, return the cylinder to the registrant or distributor. Replace safety cap and valve protection bonnet before shipping container.

Container Handling: Store cylinders upright, secured to a rack or wall to prevent tipping. Do not subject cylinders to rough handling or mechanical shock such as dropping, bumping, dragging, or sliding. Do not use rope slings, hooks, tongs or similar devices to unload cylinders. Transport cylinders using hand truck, fork truck or other device to which the cylinder can be firmly secured. Do not remove valve protection bonnet and safety cap until immediately before use. Replace safety cap and valve protection bonnet when cylinder is not in use.

Return of Containers: Cylinders are the property of the registrant or distributor and must be returned promptly after use. Do not ship cylinders without safety caps or valve protection bonnets.

Refillable Container: Only the registrant or distributor is allowed to refill this container. This container can be refilled with pesticide only. Do not reuse this container for any other purpose. Cleaning the container before final disposal is the responsibility of the person disposing of the container. Cleaning before refilling is the responsibility of the refiller.

Container Disposal: To clean the container before final disposal, remove any remaining liquid from the container, using dry air pressure if necessary. Allow container to aerate for at least 5 days. After aeration, wash container using hot water; then offer container to qualified reconditioner or dispose of as directed by State or local regulations.

WARRANTY

Seller warrants that this product conforms to the chemical description on its label and is reasonably fit for the purposes stated on the label when used in accordance with directions under normal conditions of use. To the extent consistent with applicable law, neither this warranty nor any other warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, express or implied, extends to the use of this product in a manner contrary to its label.

STRIKE 85CP Fumigant

INDEX

Precautionary Statements
- First Aid 1
- Hazards to Humans and Domestic Animals 2
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 2
- User Safety Requirements 2
- User Safety Recommendations 2
- Environmental Hazards 2
- Physical or Chemical Hazards 2

Directions for Use
- Agricultural Use Requirements 3
- Terms Used In This Labeling 3
- Application Restrictions 4
- Product Information 4
- Use Precautions 4
- Certified Applicator Training 4
- Handlers 4
- Protection for Handlers 4
- Tarp Perforation and/or Removal 6
- Entry Restricted Period and Notification 6
- Mandatory Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) 7
- Maximum Application Rate 9
- Calculating the Broadcast Equivalent Rate 10
- Buffer Zone Requirements 12
- Buffer Zone Distances 12
- Buffer Zone Tables 13-18
- Buffer Zone Credits 19
- Buffer Zone Posting 19
- Restrictions for Difficult to Evacuate Sites 20
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Measures 20
- Notice to State and Tribal Lead Agencies 21
- Emergency Response Plan 21
- Site-specific Fumigation Management Plan (FMP) 21
- Post-Application Summary 23
- Spill and Leak Procedures 23
- Storage and Disposal 24

Warranty 24

TriEst Ag Group, Inc.
1101 Industrial Boulevard • P. O. Box 448
Greenville, NC • 27835

EPA Reg. No. 87994-6
EPA Est. 87994-NC-3

RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE
Due To Acute Toxicity

For retail sale to and use by certified applicators or persons under their direct supervision and only for those uses covered by the certified applicator's certification.

STRIKE 85CP Fumigant

ACTIVE INGREDIENT:	
Chloropicrin	85.7%
OTHER INGREDIENTS*:	14.3%
TOTAL:	100.0%

**Contains petroleum distillates.*

This product weighs 12.0 lbs./gal. at 68°F (20°C). Contains 10.3 lbs./gal. chloropicrin.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

DANGER  PELIGRO

POISON

Si Usted no entiende la etiqueta, busque a alguien para que se la explique a Usted en detalle.
(If you do not understand the label, find someone to explain it to you in detail.)

IN ALL CASES OF OVEREXPOSURE, GET MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY. TAKE PERSON TO A DOCTOR OR TO AN EMERGENCY TREATMENT FACILITY.

FIRST AID

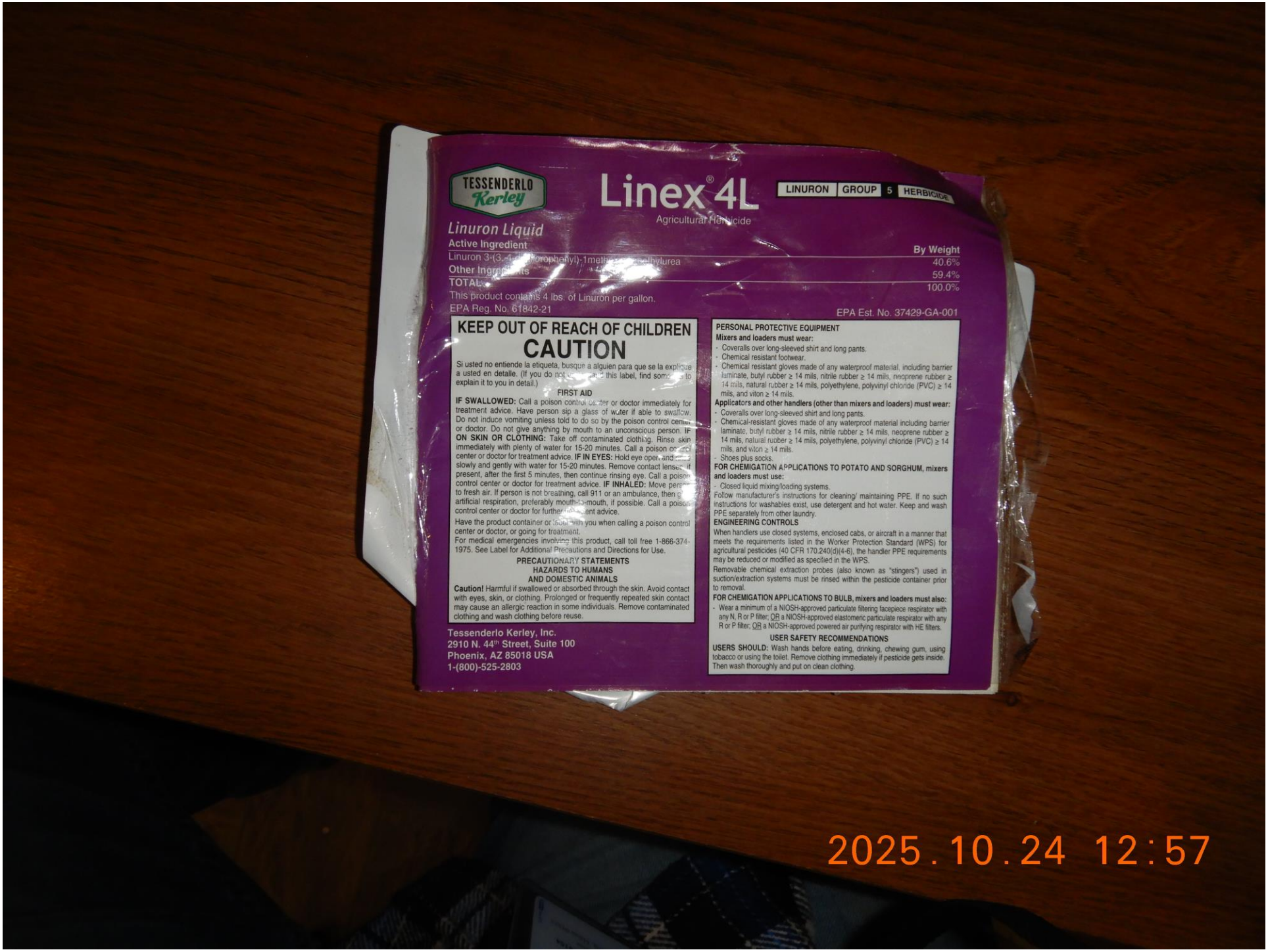
IF INHALED:	• Move person to fresh air. • If person is not breathing, call 911 or an ambulance; then give artificial respiration, preferably by mouth-to-mouth, if possible. • Call a poison control center or doctor for further treatment advice.
IF ON SKIN OR CLOTHING:	• Take off contaminated clothing. • Rinse skin immediately with plenty of water for 15-20 minutes. • Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.
IF IN EYES:	• Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes. • Remove contact lens, if present, after the first 5 minutes; then continue rinsing. • Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.
IF SWALLOWED:	• Immediately call a poison control center or doctor. • Do not induce vomiting unless told to by a poison control center or doctor. • Do not give any liquid to the person. • Do not give anything to an unconscious person.

- For additional information in case of an emergency, call toll free (1-800-424-9300).
- Have the product container or label with you when calling a poison control center or doctor, or going for treatment.

NOTE TO PHYSICIAN

- Chloropicrin is a volatile liquid that is the active ingredient in tear gas. As a gas it is a powerful lachrymator. Early symptoms of overexposure are lachrymation, respiratory distress, and vomiting. Pulmonary edema may develop later. Treatment is symptomatic.
- Contains petroleum distillates--vomiting may cause aspiration pneumonia.

251024JLR01J



251024JLR01J

due to poor emergence, insect damage, disease, high alkalinity, or other causes.

(DRILL-PLANTED)

IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON

Plant seed at least 1 inch deep; when seed is planted during abnormally dry weather, treat after soil has been settled by rainfall or irrigation.

Apply as a broadcast spray prior to emergence of wheat or to semi-dormant wheat plants. Application to actively growing plants may result in temporary yellowing (chlorosis) of wheat.

Crop injury may result where severe winter stress, disease or insect damage follows application, and also from failure to observe correct planting depth and soil type restrictions.

West of Cascade Range: Make a single application of Linex® 4L Agricultural Herbicide at 2 pts. (1 lb. ai) per acre as soon as possible after planting. If wheat and weeds have emerged, apply before weeds are 3 inches to 4 inches tall.

Where Average Annual Rainfall Exceeds 16 Inches

Fall Treatment: For early fall-planted wheat (seeded before September 10), apply 1 to 1.5 pts. (0.5 – 0.75 lb. ai) Linex® 4L Agricultural Herbicide per acre either before or after wheat has emerged but before weeds are 2 inches tall. Treatment after October 1 generally gives best results. Do not apply after soil freezes in the fall.

Spring Treatment: Apply 1 to 1.25 pts. (0.5 – 0.625 lb. ai) Linex® 4L Agricultural Herbicide per acre as soon as wheat starts to grow in the spring. Application after weeds have reached a height of 2 inches may give poor results.

Where Average Annual Rainfall is 10 to 16 Inches:

Fall or Winter Treatment: After wheat is planted in the fall, apply 1 to 1.25 pts. (0.5 – 0.625 lb. ai) Linex® 4L Agricultural Herbicide per acre when sufficient moisture is available to germinate wheat seed. Apply either before or after wheat has emerged, but before weeds are 2 inches tall and before the soil freezes. Application later than March 1 may give poor results.

Where Average Rainfall is 10 to 20 Inches:

Fall or Spring Treatment: Apply 0.5 pt. (0.25 lb. ai) Linex® 4L Agricultural Herbicide plus 0.25 lb. bromoxynil per acre as a tank mixture, either in the fall after wheat has emerged but before soil freezes or in the spring as soon as soil thaws; apply before weeds are 2 inches tall or across.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Do not contaminate water, food or feed by storage or disposal. Wastes resulting from the use of this product must be disposed of on site or at an approved waste disposal facility.

PESTICIDE STORAGE: Store product in original container only. Store in a cool, dry place.

PESTICIDE DISPOSAL: Pesticide wastes are acutely hazardous. Improper disposal of excess pesticide, spray mixture, or rinsate is a violation of Federal Law. If these wastes cannot be disposed of by use according to label instructions, contact your State Pesticide or Environmental Control Agency, or the Hazardous Waste Representative at the nearest EPA Regional Office for guidance.

CONTAINER HANDLING: Non-refillable plastic container ≤ 5 gal: Nonrefillable container. Do not reuse or refill this container. Triple rinse container (or equivalent) promptly after emptying. Triple rinse as follows: Empty the remaining contents into application equipment or a mix tank and drain for 10 seconds after the flow begins to drip. Fill the container 1/4 full with water and recap. Shake for 10 seconds. Pour rinsate into application equipment or a mix tank or store rinsate for later use or disposal. Drain for 10 seconds after the flow begins to drip. Repeat this procedure 2 more times. Then offer for recycling if available or reconditioning if appropriate or puncture and dispose of in a sanitary landfill, or by incineration.

Non-refillable plastic container > 5 gal: Nonrefillable container. Do not reuse or refill this container. Triple rinse container (or equivalent) promptly after emptying. Triple rinse as follows: Empty the remaining contents into application equipment or a mix tank. Fill the container 1/4 full with water. Replace and tighten closures. Tip container on its side and roll it back and forth, ensuring at least one complete revolution, for 30 seconds. Stand the container on its end and tip it back and forth several times. Turn the container over onto its other end and tip it back and forth several times. Empty the rinsate into application equipment or a mix tank or store rinsate for later use or disposal. Repeat this procedure 2 more times. Then offer for recycling if available or reconditioning if appropriate or puncture and dispose of in a sanitary landfill, or by incineration.

For minor spills, leaks, etc., follow all precautions indicated on this label and clean up immediately. Take special care to avoid contamination of equipment and facilities during cleanup procedures and disposal of wastes. In the event of a major spill, fire or other emergency, call 1-866-374-1975 day or night.

Complaint (COMPLAINT-44150)

Complaint | Overview | Caller | Inspections | Enforcements | Audit

Action Taken
Inspection Required

Finalized / Resolved ☐

Comments
—

Resolution Details
—

Complaint Details

COMPLAINT-44150

Company / Agency Name
Butler Farms

Complaint Details
On October 6, 2026, BPC compliance manager asked the District 5 inspector to follow up on a farm that had various violations in 2025 and a farmer that was not licensed in 2026 but was suspected to have made applications.

Call Date/Time
Oct 6, 2026

Estimated Date of Incident
Oct 6, 2026

Urgency Level
Medium

Topic
License Issue

Site
Not Applicable

Complaint Physical Location

Address Line
—

Address Line 2
—

City
Limestone

Directions
—

MAINE BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL

State Activity Inspection - 10/20/2026
Inspection Conducted By: JACOB RICHARD

Inspected Company/Agency

Company/Agency Name
Butler Farms

Company/Agency Type
NFH

Category
Farm

Address Line
650 Van Buren Rd

City
Limestone

Primary Phone
(207) 540-3416

Email
bret.butler12@gmail.com

Contact First Name
Bret

Contact Last Name
Butler

Person Interviewed

First name	Last name	Title
No	One	Interviewed

Provide supporting details and documents.

Physical Samples Taken

Sample Number	Sample Description	Sample Type	Date of Submission	Result	Lab Location	Analysis Completion Date
No items						

Documentary Samples

Sample Number	Sample Description
261020JLR01A	Photos of unrinsed, empty pesticide containers stored in an outside plastic bin behind the gated area
261020JLR01B	Photos of pesticides stored inside an unlocked garage, along with a trailer load of bagged potatoes along the full containers
261020JLR01C	Photos of full and empty, unrinsed containers stored along the outside of a potato house, including 275-gallon totes and pesticides stored on a batch truck

Reportable Data

Number of Documentary Samples Collected
0

Brief Summary of Inspection
This inspection was conducted using paper forms (converted to pdf and attached). Data from paper forms was transferred to PEGA format post-inspection in the office. Required signatures can be seen on the attached pdf forms.

Conducted a for cause state activity at Butler Farms, located at 25 Pleasant Ridge Road in Caswell, at 11:15am on October 20, 2026. BPC Manager of Compliance, Jose Gayoso, had asked me to conduct an inspection with Butler Farms due

to the violations that were discovered during last year's complaint. The violations and inspections associated with that complaint can be seen in EC-113857. Jose had asked me to ensure that the farm had corrected its mistakes from 2025 before completing the consent agreement. Other concerns included Bret Butler's lack of an active applicator's license, as his had expired in October of 2025 (PPA-2865).

Bret was not answering or returning the numerous phone calls made to him, so on October 20, 2026, I drove over to his farm to try to speak with him. I first arrived at the farm's office, located at 25 Pleasant Ridge Road in Caswell, at 11:15am. Nobody was present at the office, but the gate to the property behind the office was open. After speaking with Jose, we agreed that Statue 1471-H allowed me to enter the private property for the purpose of inspection. The intent was to locate Bret Butler, as well as determine whether similar violations compared to last year were still being made on the property.

Chloropicrin tanks, burn pits, and Bret Butler were not located on the property at this time, however other issues were found. A plastic bin was discovered with roughly a dozen empty 2.5-gallon pesticide containers in it. While the containers were empty, observations found that they were not properly triple rinsed. Photos of these containers can be seen as attached sample 261020JLR01A. While checking on a garage that had a pickup parked near the door, it was determined that behind the unlocked door sat numerous full pesticide containers. This happened to be the same building that stored pesticides during last year's inspection, but the door was still unlocked and not posted as a pesticide storage area. Further observation inside the garage found that a trailer of bagged potatoes was parked inside, alongside the pesticide containers. The closest pesticide containers to the potatoes were Gramozone SL 3.0 Herbicide (EPA Reg #100-1652), a restricted use pesticide due to the active ingredient of Paraquat. Photos of the stored pesticides inside the garage, along with the trailer of potatoes, can be seen as attached sample 261020JLR01B.

Unable to locate Bret, I visited a handful of his potato houses located along Van Buren Road in Caswell and Limestone to look. Apon arriving at the potato house located at 650 Van Buren Road in Limestone, I observed several more issues regarding storage and disposal practices of pesticide containers. First, a batch truck was parked in the yard of the potato house, with numerous full containers sitting on the flatbed. Several of the containers consisted of restricted use pesticides, and several more containers were completely unopened. Along the backside of the potato house, several 275-gallon totes were sitting in an area outside. Roughly half of these totes contained pesticides, while the other half contained fertilizers and plant nutrients. A few 2.5-gallon containers were also observed sitting on top of one of the totes. One empty tote, marked with a Bravo Weather Stik label (EPA Reg #66222-276) had been completely emptied and the top cut off. The container was now filled with cull potatoes and other garbage. On the front side of the potato house, sat two more plastic totes filled with empty, unrinsed 2.5-gallon containers, similar to the ones photographed in 261020JLR01A. Photos of all pesticide related equipment, storage, disposal, and rinsing located at this potato house are attached as sample 261020JLR01C.

While finishing up observations at the potato house, a pickup pulled into the yard to speak with me. It was an employee of Bret Butler's, who told me that Bret asked him to come see who was at the potato house after someone drove by and saw me here. I presented my credentials and informed the employee of my intent to speak with Bret. The employee stated that Bret was digging potatoes, but that this was the farm's last day of harvest. I asked if he could inform Bret of my need to speak with him, in which he called Bret right away and told him. Bret evidently told the employee over the phone that he would call me back later in the day. As of this writing, he has failed to do so. I tried calling him again on October 22 but did not receive a response.

Due to not being able to get in contact with Bret, the NOI associated with this inspection has not been signed by him. Jose Gayoso approved of that, as he asked me to submit this inspection as soon as possible so he could prepare to present it to the Board on November 13th. Further attempts will be made to speak with Bret, and Jose is considering issuing a subpoena if Bret continues to not cooperate.

Recommendations

Enforcement for the actions observed during this state activity are recommended, especially due to the repeated nature of the violations. Further actions are planned to determine the concerns with the lack of an applicator's license.

Acknowledgement

The physical and/or documentary samples listed above were collected by a Maine Board of Pesticides Control Representative in connection with administration of FIFRA and/or State of Maine Pesticide Statutes and Regulations.

MAINE BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL

State Activity Inspection - 10/30/2026
Inspection Conducted By: JACOB RICHARD

Inspected Company/Agency

Company/Agency Name
Butler Farms

Company/Agency Type
NFH

Category
Farm

Address Line
650 Van Buren Rd

City
Limestone

Primary Phone
(207) 540-3416

Email
bret.butler12@gmail.com

Contact First Name
Bret

Contact Last Name
Butler

Person Interviewed

First name	Last name	Title
Dann	Cyr	Applicator

Provide supporting details and documents.

Physical Samples Taken

Sample Number	Sample Description	Sample Type	Date of Submission	Result	Lab Location	Analysis Completion Date
No items						

Documentary Samples

Sample Number	Sample Description
No items	

Reportable Data

Number of Documentary Samples Collected
0

Brief Summary of Inspection
Conducted a for cause state activity at Butler Farms, located a 25 Pleasant Ridge Road in Caswell, on October 30, 2026, around 11:30am. The intent of the visit was to speak with Bret Butler, after continued failed attempts to get in touch with him after the actions of RC-218806.

I arrived at the farm's office, located at 25 Pleasant Ridge Road in Caswell, but again nobody was present at the office. The gate was again opened, and I could see a potato truck backing up at the end of the property. I drove up there and spoke with the employee who had just stepped out of the truck. Upon presenting my credentials and intentions, the employee was unsure of where Bret Butler was. The employee stated, "we don't always have great communication here". I thanked him for his time and went on my way.

I again decided to check the numerous potato houses along the Van Buren Road in hopes of speaking with Bret. The potato house located in Caswell on the corner of Van Buren Road and Old Route 165 had nobody present, however the batch truck that was observed at the potato house at 650 Van Buren Road on October 20th had been moved here. A majority of the full pesticide containers, including numerous RUP's were still stored on the flatbed, but significantly more empty containers were observed than before. These empty containers were tied together and hanging from a rack on the truck. Labels attached to the containers showed some different products than what was originally discovered during the inspection on October 20th. Due to trying to find Bret, along with discussion had with BPC Manager of Compliance Jose Gayoso the day before, photos of the batch truck and the unsecured containers were not photographed.

The potato house located at 650 Van Buren Road in Limestone also had nobody present, but a majority of the 275-gallon totes had been removed. A few totes still remained however, with at least one containing pesticide as in Sprout Stop Liquid Growth Retardent (EPA Reg #19713-2). A plastic bin of empty 2.5-gallon containers was also found, but the rinsed condition of these containers was not observed. Again, photos were not taken at this potato house.

The small potato house located at 554 Van Buren Road in Limestone had numerous pickups and equipment parked there. As I pulled in, I noticed Dann Cyr standing next to a pickup speaking with the driver. Dann has an applicator's license (ABA-4762) with Butler Farms and appears to be Bret's right-hand man. I asked Dann if he knew where Bret was, in which he responded that he hasn't heard from Bret in over 24 hours and had no idea where he was. Dann then told me that he accidently hit Bret's dog with his truck the day before, but the dog was fine with no broken bones. However, Dann believed he was busy tending to the dog, and nowhere around the farm.

I informed Dann of my need to speak with Bret due to my supervisor requesting a follow up inspection from last year's violations. I told Dann about my difficulty in reaching Bret, in which Dann joked that sometimes Bret won't answer his calls either. I told him how Bret's uncooperating with failing to get in contact with us was not helping him, and that the idea of a subpoena has been discussed. Dann appeared to understand this and even said "Bret needs to get his head out of his ass as he is only causing himself more trouble". He also acknowledged the containers at the potato house that I had observed on the 20th.

I stressed to Dann the importance of speaking with Bret, and Dann said he would relay the information to Bret once he contacts him again and have Bret call me. I thanked Dann for his time and cooperation before leaving.

Further attempts to reach Bret will be made if he doesn't call me by the following week. Now, numerous employees have most likely informed Bret of my need to speak with him, so there is no excuse for continued failure to return a phone call. This information was relayed to Jose Gayoso following my conversation with Dann.

Recommendations

Violations observed from the first state activity relevant to this complaint had not been completely resolved at this time, so enforcement is still recommended. Further actions will be taken to try to get in touch with Bret Butler.

261020JLR01A



261020JLR01A



261020JLR01A



261020JLR01A



261020JLR01B



261020JLR01B



261020JLR01B



261020JLR01B



261020JLR01C



261020JLR01C



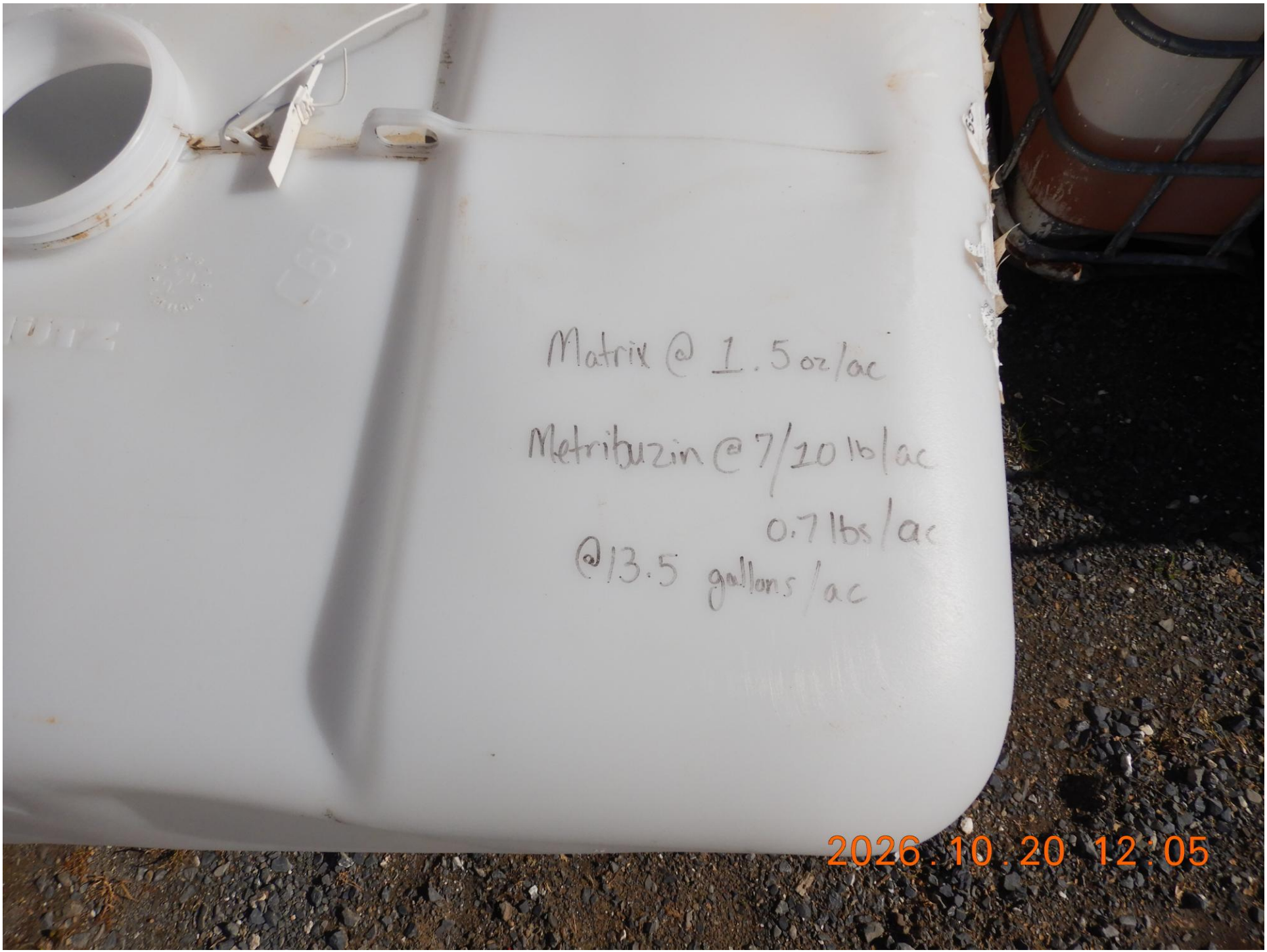
261020JLR01C



261020JLR01C



261020JLR01C



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