



UNAUTHORIZED PESTICIDE APPLICATION

The American Peanut Council is aware of the unauthorized use of _____(pesticide) which occurred _____(date) in the state of _____(state). The peanut industry is working with the state agricultural authorities to ensure that appropriate measures are being taken to ensure that food quality and consumer safety are not compromised.

Peanut growers utilize pesticides, cultural practices, biological control and crop management techniques to help prevent pests from impacting peanut quality and yield. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets Maximum pesticide residue levels in foods (tolerances) to assure the integrity of the food supply. Tolerances are based on extensive residue research studies and are established with significant safety factors taken into account to assure consumer safety.

Before growers are allowed to procure pesticides, they must either hire an EPA-certified Pesticide Applicator or become certified and licensed to apply pesticides themselves. All pesticides used in the US must be labeled with the crops the pesticide may be used on, the proper application amount and handling instructions. Label instructions are developed through extensive testing and must be approved by the EPA to assure efficacy and accuracy.

(Add paragraph describing what actually happened and steps that are being taken to keep unauthorized product off of the market.)

The US peanut industry will continue to monitor this issue and work with the (state) authorities to ensure that any contaminated product is removed from the food supply.

Approved 6/20/10. For further information, please contact the American Peanut Council office in Alexandria, Va. at: Tel: 703-838-9500; email: info@peanutsusa.com.