

My wife and I are small farmers from Ontario, Oregon specializing in the production of small seeds, both vegetable and alfalfa. We're unique in the fact that we didn't have a start from either of our families and have built a successful operation from scratch through dedication and hard work. It is the production of these small seeds along with very intense management that has made us successful as farmers and business owners, thus spending hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in our local economy.

In the small seed industry, the largest pest that we continually fight is the lygus bug. This bug has devastated seed crops through its piercing and sucking action on the developing making the seed unviable. This results in high cleanouts, less income to the grower, and potentially a complete zero on a crop due to poor germination of the seed. Controlling this pest is a must; otherwise we will be out of business.

Chlorpyrifos is a very important chemical in our toolbox of pesticide chemistries. The place chlorpyrifos has in the seed crops that are labeled; is in what we call the cleanup sprays, both before and after the pollination season. Our goal with the cleanup sprays is to eradicate all pests before introducing bees for the pollination season. Without pollinators, we won't have a seed crop, so we are very careful about taking precautions to take care of them. If we can eradicate all the pests before introducing pollination we have a longer window before we need to spray some softer, bee-safe chemistry during the pollination period, thus reducing overall insecticide use.

Chlorpyrifos is used in seed rotations because of its efficacy, residual and cost. When trying to eradicate insects, the thing you have to keep in mind is you're trying to eradicate all stages; this includes adults, in-stars, nymphs, and you have to remember there are eggs that may be hatching. Since chlorpyrifos has residual it stands a better chance of eradicating all stages and having activity on the eggs that are hatching. Insects have developed resistance to a lot of chemistries over time, but chlorpyrifos has managed to keep its efficacy against the pests that we are going after since its development in 1965. That's pretty amazing for a chemistry to still be effective 54 years later!

These seed crops are our bread and butter for our operation. Without them, our 360 acre farm isn't going to be able to compete with the large corporate farms in our area that are all vertically integrated in other crops. All of the seed crops we raise fall into the "no food, no feed" status, so none of the product will end up in the immediate food source of humans or animals. I'm not asking for a hand-out or a subsidy to keep my farming operation going; I'm asking that you don't take away the tools I need in order to do my job. If this ban goes through, it puts our farm at a major disadvantage to seed producers in other states, pushing us to move our operation elsewhere.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions feel free to call me at (208) 989-3441.

Ryan Svaty