

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 7

11201 Renner Boulevard  
Lenexa, Kansas

2013 AUG 12 PM 3:45

BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

In the Matter of	)	
	)	Docket No. FIFRA-07-2013-0021
United Farmers Mercantile Cooperative	)	
203 West Oak Street	)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
Red Oak, Iowa 51566	)	AND
	)	FINAL ORDER
Respondent	)	

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region VII and United Farmers Mercantile Cooperative (Respondent) have agreed to a settlement of this action before filing of a complaint, and thus this action is simultaneously commenced and concluded pursuant to Rules 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Jurisdiction

1. This proceeding is an administrative action for the assessment of civil penalties instituted pursuant to Section 14 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. § 136l.

2. This Consent Agreement and Final Order serves as notice that EPA has reason to believe that Respondent has violated Section 12 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j.

Parties

3. The Complainant, by delegation from the Administrator of the EPA, and the Regional Administrator, EPA, Region VII, is the Director of the Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division, EPA, Region VII.

4. The Respondent, United Farmers Mercantile Cooperative, is a "person" as defined by Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s).

### Alleged Violations

5. The Complainant hereby states and alleges that Respondent has violated FIFRA and federal regulations promulgated thereunder, as follows:

6. Respondent's facility, located at 411 North Avenue, Essex, Iowa, is a registered pesticides producing establishment with EPA Establishment Number 70238-IA-004.

7. Section 7(c) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136e(c), requires any producer operating a registered pesticide-producing establishment to inform EPA of the types and amounts of pesticides and, if applicable, active ingredients used in producing pesticides, which it is producing, which it has produced during the past year, and which it has sold or distributed during the past year. The information required by this paragraph shall be kept current and submitted to the Administrator annually as required by such regulations as the Administrator may prescribe. The regulation found at 40 C.F.R. § 167.85(d) requires such pesticides report to be filed annually on or before March 1, even if the producer has produced no pesticidal products for that reporting year.

8. Respondent has failed to comply with Section 7(c) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(c) and with the regulations found at 40 C.F.R. § 167.85(d) in that it did not file a 2012 annual pesticides report by March 1, 2013, as required.

9. It is a violation of Section 12(a)(2)(L) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(2)(L), for any person who is a pesticides producer to violate any of the provisions of Section 7 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136e.

### CONSENT AGREEMENT

It is hereby agreed and accepted by the parties, that:

1. For purposes of this proceeding, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above.

2. Respondent admits the factual allegations set forth above.

3. Respondent waives its right to a judicial or administrative hearing on any issue of fact or law set forth above and its right to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.

4. Respondent and EPA agree to conciliate this matter without the necessity of a formal hearing and to bear their respective costs and attorney's fees.

5. Respondent certifies by the signing of this Consent Agreement and Final Order that to the best of Respondent's knowledge, it is presently in compliance with all requirements of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. 136 et seq., and all regulations promulgated thereunder. Respondent has

now submitted its 2012 annual pesticides report.

6. Nothing in this Consent Agreement shall be construed as a release from, or to insulate Respondent from, any other action under any law and/or regulation administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

7. Each signatory of this Agreement certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

### **FINAL ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 14 of FIFRA, as amended, 7 U.S.C. § 136l, and upon information contained in this Consent Agreement of the parties herein, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent, in settlement of the allegations set forth in the Complaint, shall not be assessed a civil penalty. Respondent's establishment number will be terminated at Respondent's request.

2. Respondent and Complainant shall each bear their own costs and attorneys' fees incurred as a result of this matter.

3. The effective date of this Order shall be the date on which it is signed by the Regional Judicial Officer.

4. This executed Consent Agreement and Final Order shall be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, Kansas, 66219.

COMPLAINANT:

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY

By: *Karen Flournoy*  
Karen Flournoy  
Director  
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division

Date: 8-8-13

By: *Kent Johnson*  
Kent Johnson  
Attorney  
Office of Regional Counsel

Date: 8/7/13

RESPONDENT:

United Farmers Mercantile Cooperative

By: Jhon Russ

Title: General Manager

Date: 8/1/13

IT IS SO ORDERED. This Order shall become effective immediately.

Karina Borromeo

KARINA BORROMEO  
Regional Judicial Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region VII

Aug. 12, 2013

Date

IN THE MATTER OF United Farmers Mercantile Cooperative, Respondent  
Docket No. FIFRA-07-2013-0021

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy by email to Attorney for Complainant:

johnson.kent@epa.gov

Copy by First Class Mail to Respondent:

John Pruss  
United Farmers Mercantile Cooperative  
203 West Oak Street  
Red Oak, Iowa 51566

Dated: 8/13/13



Kathy Robinson  
Kathy Robinson  
Hearing Clerk, Region 7