

Miami-Dade County Operation Cleansweep Pilot Collection, 1996

Miami-Dade County is a mostly urban county on the southeast coast of Florida with a population of about 2,000,000 (in 1997). Miami is a major urban center with strong international trade and finance activities and major tourism industries. Agriculture is also significant economic activity. In 1996, Miami-Dade County was called Dade County.

The collection was held on Tuesday, August 27, 1996 at an agriproducts distributor facility in Homestead, FL. Representatives from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Dade County and United Agri Products were present. The 107 participants brought in almost 12,000 pounds of cancelled, suspended or unusable pesticides (CSUP). One participant brought in 600 pounds of sodium arsenate, a product which can no longer be used on potatoes. Another participant brought in 2 55-gallon drums of Baygon. Several participants brought pesticides in containers that had been damaged during Hurricane Andrew over 4 years prior to the collection. Some Chlordane was also collected. The top 10 pesticides collected at the collection are shown in the table below.

Pesticide	Gallons	Pounds	Total Pounds*
Ambush	46	5	465
Baygon	110		1,100
Dimethoate	13		130
Dursban	5	3	53
Malathion	53	75	608
Phosdrin	5		50
Sodium Arsenate		600	600
Thimet		1,500	1,500
Ziram	5		50

*Gallons were converted to pounds using 1 gal = 10 pounds conversion factor.

After the collection event was completed, the on-site team inspected a previously identified container box on private residential property filled with pesticides. A visual inspection revealed about 1,500 pounds of Thimet in the container box. Since many of the containers (mostly bags) had deteriorated due to age (over 10 years old), creating a danger to the public and environment, the decision was made by the team, in consultation with Dade county staff, to include these materials in the program. The hazardous waste contractor that had done the collection event was dispatched a few days later to the site and removed and disposed of the pesticides. The costs for the removal and disposal of the pesticides stored on this one site was about \$9,000 due to the type and quantity of the material and the condition of the containers. Cleansweep team decided that similar removals in future Cleansweep projects would be at the discretion of project leadership conditional on availability of funding and the potential danger to the public and environment.

Data Sources for This Report:

1. "Operation Cleansweep Pilot Project" by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Agricultural Environmental Services, Tallahassee, FL.
2. Letter to Judy Northdurft, Dade County from Burt McKee, United Agri Products, July 19, 1996.
3. "Interim Report – Homestead Collection Day" fax to CSUP Working Group from Burt McKee, United Agri Products, August 30, 1996.
4. "Dade County Collection Program" in Environmental Update: United Agri Products/United Horticultural Supply newsletter, January, 1997.
5. "Re: FL Pesticide Law as an addition to Cleansweep..." email from Burt McKee, Central Florida Regional Planning Council to Jack Price, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, September 7, 2000.