

Okaloosa County Operation Cleansweep Pilot Collection, 1996

Okaloosa County is a mostly rural coastal county in northwest Florida (the panhandle) with a population of about 170,000 (in 1997). Fort Walton Beach is the largest city. The county has a large military base, significant tourism industry and major agricultural and timber operations.

A collection was held on Saturday, September 21, 1996 at a agricultural center in Crestview, FL. The location was selected due to its proximity to agricultural operations. Representatives from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Okaloosa County and United Agri Products were present. In spite of the inclement weather, the 8 participants brought in more than 1,400 pounds of cancelled, suspended or unusable pesticides (CSUP). The top 5 pesticides collected at the collection are shown in the table below.

| Pesticide | Gallons | Pounds | Total Pounds* |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Baygon | | 5 | 5 |
| Dursban | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Malathion | | 7 | 7 |
| Vapam | 3 | | 30 |
| Other** | 31 | 132 | 437 |

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

**Other: Small Containers (1 oz, 1qt); Experimentals; Unknowns

During the collection event a few members of the on-site team with emergency response training responded to an incident where the owner of a pest control company was seriously injured in an explosion. They made recommendations to the firefighters on scene regarding what to do about the contaminated area.

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. "Interim Report – Okaloosa Collection Day" fax to CSUP Working Group from Burt McKee, United Agri Products, September 23, 1996.