

**PROGRAM GUIDELINES**  
**FOR OPERATION CLEANSWEEP**

FY 2016-2017

**PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM**

The purpose of Operation Cleansweep is to offer a safe, convenient, and cost effective mechanism for agricultural operations, golf courses, and pest control companies to properly dispose of canceled, suspended, and unusable pesticides (CSUP).

**PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The 2000 Florida Legislature appropriated \$300,000 and authorized the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement a program to collect and dispose of CSUP. The 2001 Legislature again appropriated \$300,000 for fiscal year July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002. The 2002 Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to continue the program from July 1, 2002 - July 31, 2003. The 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 Legislature appropriated \$100,000 each fiscal year to maintain the program. The 2011, 2012 and 2013 Legislature did not appropriate any funds to maintain the program, but in 2014 there was once again funding appropriated in the amount of \$100,000.

The 2015 Legislature appropriated \$100,000 to fund the program, with the funds going directly to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to hire a contractor and implement the program in accordance with these Program Guidelines. In-kind services from the staff of DEP and FDACS will also be directed to this program.

Currently, Operation Cleansweep is scheduled for annual allocation renewal to maintain the program until further notice.

Since pesticide end-user, state agency, and local government support are critical to the success of this program, the Operation Cleansweep Steering Committee has been convened to collaboratively develop and review these Program Guidelines. This committee consists of representatives from some of the following partner organizations:

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Florida Citrus Mutual
- Florida Farm Bureau
- Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association
- Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
- Florida Tomato Committee
- Florida Forestry Association
- Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association
- Florida Landscape Maintenance Association
- Florida Turf Grass Association
- Florida Peanut Producers Association
- Florida Pest Management Association
- Turf Grass Producers of Florida Cooperative
- Florida Sod Growers Cooperative

Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association  
Certified Pest Control Operators  
UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

### **FDACS CONTACT**

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### **CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**

The current contract with Care Environmental has been extended until June 30, 2017. At that time and pending appropriation of additional funding, FDACS will send out an Invitation to Bid for the next program year.

### **WHO CAN PARTICIPATE**

This is an opportunity for agricultural operations, golf courses, pest control companies, etc. that reside in Florida to properly dispose of CSUP. This program is not intended for universities, pesticide manufacturers and distributors, institutions, or state and local government. The intent of this guideline is to ensure that the public money that funds Cleansweep goes mostly to commercial users rather than governmental agencies or commercial wholesalers. The Steering Committee believes this was the intent of the Legislature when they funded Cleansweep. For all private commercial entities requesting service, they will be serviced at the following rate:

- The first 1000 pounds of CSUP will be managed utilizing Cleansweep funds. If more CSUP, over the initial 1000 pounds exists, the entity requesting service will be responsible for paying for the management of this “excess” material at the contracted rate directly to the contractor. Additional requests will be handled on a case by case basis, based on the degree of eminent danger to public health and safety and the potential for environmental harm.

In the past, it has been noted that both governmental users and commercial wholesalers tend to have large quantities of product or large numbers of containers with unknown pesticides, compared with commercial users. This can deplete funding to the extent that the program cannot adequately serve the commercial users. In order to control program costs via available funding, it has been a general requirement that governmental agencies pay costs of disposal. Another reason for this guideline is to avoid the appearance (or reality) of “government paying for government” at the expense of the commercial users. Due to the economies of scale, however, the costs of disposal through the state Operation Cleansweep contract prices are generally 1/3 or 1/4 the costs of disposal it would normally cost to hire a private contractor to handle the same pesticide wastes.

## **AS NEEDED DISPOSAL VIA CONTRACTED PICKUP**

A list of participants, quantities and products will be compiled in advance of scheduling a pickup or collection. The lists will be compiled by the DACS Program Manager with the assistance of a FDACS toll free phone line (1-877-851-5285), county agricultural agents and inspectors, state and county solid waste staff, trade associations, etc. The lists will be organized based upon FDACS regions. Typically, at least the quantity and name of products will be verified by an on-site visit by appropriate personnel, usually DACS staff. Initially, the type of participant, town, quantity and name of products would be compiled with a specific contact name and address needed prior to an actual pickup.

When a list in a FDACS region or other geographic area (county), reaches a quantity specified in the vendor contract e.g., 2,000 lbs., a “milk run” collection would be authorized by the FDACS Program Manager. The contractor, not the FDACS Program Manager, would schedule the specific route and collection schedule for all participants served by a milk run. At both the milk run collection and individual pickup events, one or more FDACS staff will provide field oversight to verify weights, reconcile participants with the lists, ensure safety, and sign shipping manifests.

## **MATERIALS ACCEPTED**

A specific plan for handling and packaging materials received at the collection site shall be agreed to by the DEP, the FDACS, and the hazardous waste contractor and include guidelines for original, unbroken containers; broken or partial containers; unlabeled material that appears to be an acceptable material (unknowns); and material that clearly does not meet program criteria. Gas cylinders are not acceptable. Formulations in aerosol dispensers are acceptable.

This program is primarily focused on the collections of pesticide or fertilizer/pesticide containers known to contain CSUP ingredients. This means the product label should be legible. In instances where the label is not legible a decision will have to be made at the collection site by FDACS personnel as to whether it is acceptable. Leaking product containers shall be over-packed at the collection site and accepted for proper disposal. The selected contractor will be responsible for all CSUP handling, packaging, loading, transportation, disposal, and emergency response. FDACS and/or DEP staff should also be present to assist and ensure compliance with the appropriate regulations under their jurisdiction.

## **PARTICIPATION BY PESTICIDE MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS**

The collection and proper disposal of CSUP will be extended to pesticide manufacturers and distributors. However, services will not be offered free of charge unless excess funding is available after all commercial entities are serviced. Manufacturers and distributors must pay the contractor for picking up their material and for all disposal charges, but the costs will be charged at the same rate as the contract prices agreed to between the contractor and FDACS. Arrangements for participation by pesticide manufacturers and distributors must be made in advance and all participants must be placed on the list.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH**

DEP will assume the lead role in developing a web page to be posted and maintained by DEP. FDACS and DEP will work together to develop press releases, articles, and other public-relations materials. The end-user and UF/IFAS representatives on the Steering Committee will also play a significant role in communicating key program components to the appropriate target audiences.

## **PROPOSED PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

- Renew existing contract with Care Environmental
- Steering Committee Meeting                      September 9, 2016
- Collection Event                                      April-May 2017
- Final Report    July 2017

## **FINAL REPORT**

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will take the lead in preparing a final report at the conclusion of the program year detailing the numbers of participants by type, the amount of materials collected, the cost of collection and disposal, and the final disposition of the wastes collected.