Dryacide vital to manage resistance

Insects have an amazing ability to survive by adaptive evolution, including adapting to the chemicals that are supposed to kill them.

But advisers can protect valuable grain insecticides for years to come by incorporating Dryacide Insect Desiccant Dust into their integrated pest management strategies.

Roger Allanson, managing director of Entosol, said Dryacide’s mode of action was based on physical control of insect pests, rather than chemical control, making it an important tool for managing resistance to chemical insecticides in grain storage facilities.

“Over the years, as insects have adapted, growers have needed to use stronger formulations of insecticides or apply two or more insecticides together to achieve the same level of control,” he said.

“This can lead to unwelcome chemical residues in food products and the development of immunity to the chemicals by the insects.

“Several species of insects associated with grain storages are now showing resistance to a range of grain protectant chemical families and the fumigant phosphine.”

Dryacide is an inert dust offering a completely different control mechanism. It works on a purely physical level, using diatomaceous earth to absorb moisture from insects. This leads to rapid desiccation and eventual death.

“If applied correctly, with complete coverage under dry conditions, Dryacide can provide up to 12 months’ protection against weevils, beetles, borers and moths,” Mr Allanson said.

“In addition, because the product has a very different mode of action to synthetic chemical insecticides, it is very unlikely that cross-resistance will develop.”

He encouraged grains advisers to use Dryacide in their integrated pest management programs.

“Insecticides and fumigants are still needed to protect and disinfest grain and it is vital to ensure their continued use,” he said.

“Thereir longevity can be extended by implementing comprehensive hygiene programs in combination with using Dryacide treatment in storage structures. This way, stored-product insects will not be constantly exposed to the same chemical group both on grain and on storage structures.”

Mr Allanson also suggested that integrating different chemical types into the treatment program would keep the insects’ internal chemistry guessing.

He said Entosol had started manufacturing Dryacide early this year to ensure that stocks would be readily available for reseller’s clients.

“Dryacide is the best choice for resistance management – it’s environmentally safe, it’s one of the least expensive structural treatments available and it’s backed by 30 years of credibility as market leader,” he said.

“Dryacide is 100% Australian owned and is also manufactured in Australia. Extend the life of your favourite grain protectants and fumigants by recommending Dryacide this season.”

Getting it right!

In the lead-up to harvest it is important that everyone plays their part in ensuring harvested grain can meet market requirements. In relation to grain stored on-farm, a key component is maintaining the quality of the grain and ensuring it is free of live storage insects.

To keep insects out of the grain, or to kill those insects, requires the use of some form of insect control treatment. There are a few options, including contact insecticides, non-residual fumigants such as phosphine, and inert atmospheres.

Coupled with aeration and good hygiene, these options have been very successful. However, if any of these chemicals is misused, the potential for market access issues to arise becomes real. Instructions relating to the use of these chemicals are outlined on the registration labels. Information includes direction for use, application rates, mixing instructions, withholding periods, safety directions and first aid.

Of the options, fumigants are the most widely used. These are important to our industry because they leave no pesticide residues when applied to grain. Export markets sensitive toward the presence of pesticide residues are generally supplied with grain which has been treated with fumigants. Fumigants should only be used in gas-tight storages.

A number of contact insecticides are available in Australia that can be used as grain protectants. All vary in toxicity, persistence and mode of action.

Insect resistance to many of the contact insecticides is well researched and a number must now be used in combination. For advice on effective treatments to be used refer to the GRDC Stored Grain website. Failure to apply correct treatment may increase the risk of insect resistance developing or require an alternative and costly re-treatment.
Grants to support kids in the bush

Entries are now open for the Whites Rural Community Grants program, which will deliver $40,000 nationwide for projects to support kids through art, music, sport, sustainability or social well-being.

Whites Rural general manager Mike Kelly says the grants are an opportunity to do something great for kids from regional, rural and remote Australia.

"Whites Rural is proud of this initiative to support kids in regional communities," he said. "Our business is built on passion and great people and the grants really speak to our company values."

There are ten grants available nationally. Applicants must reside outside of major capital cities to be eligible.

"Whites Rural Community Grants is a way for Whites Rural to say thank you to the communities that help in our success as a business," Mr Kelly said. "What better way to give back than through kids – the future of the Australian bush.

"We are looking for ways to help the next generation thrive and succeed. Kids are the heart of local communities and great things happen when communities get together and rally behind something they believe in.

"Grants might go towards starting a music program, creating a town art space, new uniforms for the sports team or developing a community garden. We’re anticipating a lot of very different projects and ideas and we’re excited to see what the kids of regional Australia will achieve through these grants."

To help spread the word, Whites Rural’s network of resellers and employees are getting behind the program, and entries are open to members of the public.

"Parents, teachers, coaches – even kids themselves are encouraged to apply," Mr Kelly said.

Entries can be made by visiting www.wrcommunity.com.au and providing a written submission on how you will help kids from your local community. Submissions can be up to 700 words long or a video of up to one minute. They will be judged on their creativity, benefit to the community and practicality. Entries close 31 October 2015 and grant recipients will be announced 30 November.

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