



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Potts Camp Man Pleads Guilty to Illegal Use of Pesticide

Kenneth Edwards of Potts Camp pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Mississippi to one count of the illegal use of a pesticide, Aldicarb, in a manner inconsistent with its labeling and one count of killing a migratory non-game bird, red-tailed hawk, in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's (MDAC) Bureau of Plant Industry initially received the complaint and began an investigation concerning the misuse of a pesticide in an animal poisoning case. The Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement were contacted to further the investigation. The joint investigation concluded that Edwards contaminated a calf carcass with Aldicarb in an effort to kill coyotes. Aldicarb is toxic to fish, birds and other wildlife when used improperly and is not approved for use as a poison for animals.

Edwards was ordered to pay a fine in the amount of \$5,000 and to make a community service payment of \$5,000 to the Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. as restitution for the hawk. He must also pay the Mississippi State Chemical Lab restitution of \$770.07 for reimbursement of lab costs and permanently surrender his private applicator's certification.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce continues to work with federal, state and local agencies to ensure the safe use of pesticides in Mississippi. MDAC commends the Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement for their outstanding work on this case.

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The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) is a regulatory and service division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. It was established under the Mississippi Plant Act to protect the agricultural and horticultural interests of the state from harmful insects, diseases and weeds. The Bureau administers state and federal laws, regulations and programs that deal with plant pests, pesticides, honeybees, plants, professional plant and pest control services, animal feeds, seed, fertilizer, lime and amendments to soils and plants. BPI maintains cooperative agreements with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other state and federal agencies.