

-Mineral Oil- *Supplemental Information*

Mineral Oil has already been passed by the NOSB before and it was up for reevaluation during the recent meetings held in Washington, DC in September, 2002. The material was deferred and additional information was requested. The following supplement contains information on the use of mineral oil as a dust suppressant.

Dust control is an important aspect of agricultural farming in general. According to the Department of Ecology, agriculture is one of the most common areas in which dust exists, alongside construction sites, storage piles, and parking lots, along with others. There are many benefits to dust control, but with regards to farmers, dust control provides one major benefit: it reduces the harmful impacts of dust on vegetation, agricultural crops, and water quality due to turbidity and sedimentation.

It should be noted, however, that the use of *used* oils for dust control is illegal. According to **Chapter 70.95I RCW Used Oil Recycling**, Recycled or used oil is prohibited for use as a dust suppressant. This includes any oil that has been refined from crude oil, or has been used before. By recycling the oil, it becomes contaminated by physical or chemical impurities. It is important that the oil must not be tampered with or even be made from other oils that have been tampered with. Federal regulation 40 CFR Part 279, Standards for the Management of Used Oil, Subpart I prohibits the use of used oil as a dust suppressant in all 50 states.¹

As a dust suppressant, mineral oil basically binds the individual dust particles together and contains them within the realm of the oil. As a result, the dust is “controlled” and not allowed to spread. There are many other dust suppressants available but not all of them (i.e. petroleum) are suitable for animal use. After all, the animal will be ingesting it along with its feed.²

Mineral oil, vegetable oils, and fats can all be used in selected premixes. Intended purpose of the premix, type of carrier, amount of carrier, and cost of oil or fat all influence one’s choice. Mineral oil is the most widely used dust control agent for concentrated premixes while other oils and fats are used in the more diluted products. Many times the type and amount of dust control/binding agent used is compromised because of cost competitiveness, which can result in poorer quality premixes. Some fats, if not stabilized, can cause destruction of vitamins. Application of oils to mixes under pressure to create an atomized oil droplet is the preferred method of application. This will ensure uniform application and a better quality mix.³

Note: all other general information regarding mineral oil (i.e. reaction in body of animal, ecological effects, etc.) can be found in the body of the main TAP report. This supplement only contains information regarding mineral oil as a dust suppressant.

¹ “Alternatives to hazardous materials: *Techniques for dust prevention and suppression.*” Pollution Prevention. Publication Number 96-433, Revised May 2002.

² “Alternatives to hazardous materials: *Techniques for dust prevention and suppression.*” Pollution Prevention. Publication Number 96-433, Revised May 2002.

³ *Premixing* <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/grsci2/MF2056.pdf>

