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Information note to all user of weed-wipers/weed-lickers

Background

Increasingly grassland farmers are using weed-wipers (weed lickers) to control weeds on their holdings, especially rushes. Before purchasing and/or using a weed-wiper on your holding, be sure you comply with the following requirements.

- You must be trained and registered with the DAFM as a Professional User in order to use these machines.
- Completion of an appropriate 'boom sprayer' course and subsequent registration with the DAFM will allow you to use a weed-wiper on your own holding, but not on any other holding.
- If you wish to offer a contracting service for weed-wiping, you must complete an appropriate specific weed-wiping course e.g. Lantra Level 2 Award in the safe application of pesticide using vehicle mounted or trailed wick type applicators or City & Guilds PA1 + PA2F – mounted or trailed wick type applicator, or QQI Level 5 Mechanical Pesticide Application (5N20435).
- Completion of a dedicated weed-wiping course will not qualify the candidate to use a boom sprayer.
- The only products approved for use in weed wipers are those based on the active substance *glyphosate* – check product labels for recommended methods of application and dilution rates. **Products based on the active substance MCPA are not approved for use in weed-wipers and this method of use for MCPA based products is ILLEGAL.**
- Only use the volume of product required to complete the weed-wiping task at hand.
- READ AND COMPLY WITH ALL PRODUCT LABEL INSTRUCTIONS

- Maintain accurate records of all pesticides applied on your holding, irrespective of the method of application.

Further enquiries to pcs@agriculture.gov.ie or 01-6157552

Additional information can be found on the Pesticide Controls Division section of the Department's website at www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie