

Grazing Treated Peanut Stubble

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PEANUT growers will soon have the option to graze or make peanut hay from crops that have been treated with the important fungicide chlorothalonil.

Crop Care Australasia Regulatory Affairs Manager, Bronwyn Vorpapel, said a registration change for the fungicide Barrack® 720 was expected to be approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority in the very near future.

The approval will allow grazing or cutting of Barrack-treated peanut stubble for stock feed, provided the designated withholding period is observed. The WHP is expected to be 21 days, and the Export Slaughter Interval 63 days.

Currently, no grazing of peanut stubble or hay is allowed if a chlorothalonil fungicide has been used on the crop.

Ms Vorpapel: "The new grazing claim will only apply to certain products – initially Barack 720, and subsequently Unite® 720, Elect® 500 and Barrack Betterstick®.

"Growers should check the product label prior to applying – to ensure they are using an approved chlorothalonil product, if there is a possibility of later grazing or baling the crop."

Peanut Company of Australia peanut supply manager (Bundaberg) Pat Harden said the registration change would be a very important one, especially for inland growers.

"In the South Burnett, in the Northern Territory and around the Emerald, Texas, and Bonshaw growing areas, there is strong demand for peanut hay from local cattle producers – providing peanut growers with a second income stream from their crop.

"Peanut growers have had to make the decision at the beginning of the season - whether to use chlorothalonil, or whether to bale hay, as one precludes the other.



A peanut crop being harvested. The plant material left after the nuts are harvested can be made into high-value legume hay - an important second income stream from the crop.

"Whichever way they decide, they are locked out of the other choice. So this pending registration change for some chlorothalonil products will give growers a lot more flexibility.

"Chlorothalonil is the mainstay in peanut growers' fungicide programs, and is an important fungicide family to include in rotation with others, to manage resistance issues."

Barrack 720 can be used to control the important peanut fungal diseases early leaf spot, late leaf spot, peppery leaf spot, peanut rust and net blotch.

Supporting evidence for this new grazing claim was provided by a collaborative project between the

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Peanut Company of Australia (PCA), Crop Care Australasia and Nufarm Australia, which undertook residue trials to establish a suitable withholding period. The trials were conducted in peanut crops in the Kingaroy, Bundaberg and Atherton Tableland districts.

Pat Harden: "Because of the importance of this fungicide to growers, and the importance of value-adding through selling hay, the Peanut Company of Australia has been involved from the outset in the collaborative trials with Crop Care and Nufarm.

"Those companies are to be thanked for taking an interest in a 'minor' crop like peanuts, which is often overlooked by other major players."

Background Information

Australia produces 40,000 to 50,000 tonnes of peanuts annually, with 95% of production in Queensland. Peanut growing has expanded from the traditional growing regions of the South Burnett and Atherton Tableland to include the Darling Downs (around Clifton, St Geroge and Texas), Bundaberg, Childers, Mackay and Emerald. These newer growing regions now account for 60% of the crop. Peanuts are also grown in NSW around Bonshaw.

The Peanut Company of Australia (established in 1924 as the Peanut Marketing Board) is Australia's leading supplier of peanuts to domestic and overseas markets, last year processing more than 30,000 tonnes of peanuts.

The Company has intake and processing operations based in Kingaroy, Tolga and Gayndah in Queensland, and a large farming operation at Katherine, NT.



Peanut hay being baled in the Bundaberg district earlier this year. Currently, peanut growers have to make a big decision at the beginning of the season - whether to use the important fungicide chlorothalonil to protect their crop, or whether to bale hay, as one precludes the other. Growers will soon have the option to graze or make peanut hay from crops that have been treated with some products containing this fungicide.



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