Welcome to the Agsafe Annual Review 2012

About Agsafe

For 20 years, Agsafe has been the industry’s leading provider of agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemical safety advice in the supply chain and is committed to minimising the pollution risk posed by chemical products once they have been used.

Agsafe is a wholly owned subsidiary of CropLife Australia and was established to provide stewardship for the agvet chemical industry. Agsafe has no legal or enforcement powers and is focused on helping rural retail stores meet their legal requirements and community expectations.

Through its Accreditation and Training program, and with the help of experienced and qualified contractors throughout Australia, Agsafe provides essential advice and training on chemical safety to more than 1,600 agvet chemical premises.

Agsafe also provides chemical users with responsible options for disposing of unwanted agvet chemicals and container waste, through the ChemClear and drumMUSTER programs.

Agsafe is a not-for-profit organisation and its programs are funded and supported by the agvet chemical industry. The industry is very proud of the sustained success of its stewardship initiatives, and it is fitting that in Agsafe’s 20th year, it reports on some of its main areas of activity and achievement over the past 12 months.

2012 Highlights

2012 was a year of milestones and great achievements for all three programs, including:

1. 1,978 personnel trained through Accreditation and Training courses
2. 870 storage and retail premises assessed and accredited
3. 2,215,400 chemical containers collected and recycled
4. 32,600 litres/kilograms of unwanted chemicals collected and disposed of
5. 20 millionth chemical container collected by drumMUSTER
Purpose

Agsafe’s mission is to provide stewardship for agvet chemicals to protect health, safety and the environment. It does so by supporting the safe and compliant handling, supply and disposal of agvet chemicals and their containers through:

- Personnel training.
- Premises assessment and accreditation.
- End-user waste management systems.
- Communication and awareness.

Our key aims are:

- To provide accessible, relevant and valued training and advice to workers in the supply and distribution network to ensure the safe storage, handling and supply of agvet chemicals.
- To assist all agvet chemical storage, distribution and retail premises in compliance and safety.
- To manage the delivery of the drumMUSTER and ChemClear programs on behalf of AgStewardship Australia.

“(Agsafe) assists farmers to meet their own quality assurance requirements... These quality assurance programs require farmers to purchase chemicals from accredited locations and Agsafe accreditation meets this need.”

NSW Farmers Association.
**Delivery Structure**

Agsafe is overseen by a Board of Directors comprising of representatives from AgLink, Animal Health Alliance, CropLife Australia, Elders, Fertilizer Australia, Landmark, National Rural Independents, Ruralco Holdings and the Veterinary Manufacturers and Distributors Association. With the assistance of a network of expert contractors across Australia, Agsafe programs are delivered by a small Canberra-based team. Our dedicated staff have decades of experience in helping rural businesses with their work health and safety needs and providing chemical users with safe options for disposing of their agvet chemical waste.

To find out more on what we do, visit our website www.agsafe.com.au or call us on (02) 6230 4799.

**Agsafe Ltd Corporate Structure**

**Agsafe’s History**

**Accreditation and Training**

In October 1987, the board of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Association (AVCA), agreed to establish an accreditation and training scheme to provide safety advice and knowledge to rural retailers of agricultural chemicals.

To support compliance with Government legislation in particular, AVCA believed an industry-based scheme would be the most effective way of supporting the industry in meeting its health, safety and environmental obligations. A committee made up of chemical distributors and manufacturers was subsequently established, with the aim of developing a national program to provide advice and promote safety in the distribution and sale of agvet chemical products.

After considerable effort and review, staff training commenced in 1990 under the auspices of AVCA (and subsequently, AVCARE). Premises review and accreditation followed soon after in 1991, initially using a self-assessment process.

In 1993, Agsafe was created as an independent subsidiary of AVCARE and is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of CropLife Australia.

Since 1994, Agsafe has been authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to instigate trading sanctions on organisations and individuals who do not meet Agsafe accreditation obligations. This has been possible through the support of the agvet chemical suppliers most recently, through their membership of CropLife Australia and the Animal Health Alliance.

**“(Agsafe) assist by ensuring that advice received by farmers from agricultural chemical retailers is appropriate and in accordance with the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992 and the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2007.”**

**Victorian Department of Primary Industries.**

**“(Agsafe’s programs) aid in the safe handling of chemicals and therefore, an improved environmental outcome with regard to chemical storage and use.”**

**WA Department of Environment and Conservation.**
In 1998, drumMUSTER was created after an agreement was signed by Avcare (now CropLife Australia and the Animal Health Alliance), the Australian Local Government Association, National Farmer’s Federation and the Veterinary Manufacturers and Distributors Association, to collect and recycle non-returnable agvet chemical containers as part of an Industry Waste Reduction Scheme (IWRS).

In 2003, ChemClear was launched as part of the IWRS agreement between Agsafe and participating manufacturers to deal with agvet chemicals that had been banned, stockpiled or unwanted by farmers and waste holders. ChemClear is funded under the same levy that supports drumMUSTER. To date, both programs are Australia’s only end-user waste program for agvet chemicals and its associated waste.

As drumMUSTER and ChemClear continued to grow, there became a need for an independent body to manage funds and to guide both programs on a strategic level. In 2009, AgStewardship Australia was created to collect the IWRS levy and has contracted Agsafe to deliver the programs on AgStewardship’s behalf. Agsafe continues to run the programs for AgStewardship after the agreement between parties was renewed in 2012.

“VMDA commends Agsafe for the success of their programs in lifting the standards of storage of rural industry products and in the training of staff who handle and recommend these products”
Veterinary Manufacturers & Distributors Association

The following pages outline some of the main areas of Agsafe’s activity during 2012, particularly in relation to the Accreditation & Training, drumMUSTER and ChemClear programs, as well as some of the cross-program initiatives.

Communications and Awareness

Agsafe undertakes extensive communications to support the awareness of, and participation in, its programs. ChemClear and drumMUSTER collections in particular are widely advertised throughout the year through a network of print, TV and radio. Agsafe is featured in every edition of the widely distributed Rural Business Magazine, with industry updates and announcements of the monthly Agsafe Achievers award. During 2012, Agsafe’s new website was launched and is being used for a range of communication purposes, including promotion of training dates and keeping Agsafe members up to date with issues within the industry – including changes to work health and safety regulations. Agsafe also supports members with its UTE IT DON'T BOOT IT campaign to ensure the safe loading and transport of agvet chemicals.

Industry Representation

In addition to delivering its stewardship programs, Agsafe spends considerable time seeking the support and recognition of government and other stakeholders, for the industry’s commitment to the Agsafe programs. Agsafe is particularly keen to ensure that the government authorities responsible for legislation on work health & safety, environment protection and chemical safety appreciate the significant commitment made by rural retail and other distribution premises to abide by the relevant laws.

Agsafe Activity

Over 32,600 kg/lt of chemicals collected and recycled in 2011-12.

More than 2,215,400 drums collected and recycled by the program in 2011-12.

Agsafe member stores in 2012, with 46% moving to Agsafe Advanced status.

Over 870 facilitators visited Agsafe stores in 2012.
Accreditation and Training Update

The Accreditation & Training program provides rural businesses with the skills and knowledge to safely handle agvet chemicals. Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the program has helped the industry to operate safely and responsibly through compliance with work health and safety, and environment protection legislation.

Changes to Reaccreditation

In 2012, Agsafe’s Accreditation & Training program made significant improvements, including changes to the store accreditation cycle and the introduction of a new membership structure.

Agsafe members now have the option of moving to a four year premise accreditation cycle by maintaining a high level of compliance against the Agsafe Code of Practice – which includes government regulation obligations.

To move to the four year cycle, stores must achieve compliance within 21 days of a visit by an Agsafe Facilitator. Stores meeting the timeframe become Agsafe Advanced members, while those that don’t, become Agsafe Essential members and remain on a two year cycle. Out of the 870 stores visited as part of the accreditation process in 2012, 396 were awarded the Advanced status.

Under the new membership structure, participating stores receive a range of benefits, including regular assessments and advice, discounts on the Store Manifest system and access to important industry news.

Facilitators and Trainers Conference 2012

Facilitators and Trainers from all around Australia gathered in Canberra in July for their annual conference. The focus of the meeting was to discuss changes to the program, emerging issues and to review the previous year. The group also participated in a discussion with representatives from Syngenta, to ensure the program continued to meet the needs of manufacturers.

The three day conference also involved a presentation from CropLife’s Assistant Director in Environment and Stewardship, Ben Stapley, on the key issues facing agvet chemical industry manufacturers. Angelo Valois from the Chemical Security Risk Assessment Unit within the Australian Government Attorney-General’s Department talked about their work in managing chemicals of national security concern.

Agsafe and WHS Harmonisation

With changes to Work Health and Safety (WHS) across the country, Agsafe updated its Code of Practice and Basic Training course in NSW, NT, QLD & ACT to give employees the required understanding of new WHS regulations – including their obligations in the workplace. A number of fact sheets were distributed to Agsafe Members during the year, helping premises understand the changes and adapt them to their businesses.

Under the new legislation, store managers have greater responsibility to ensure their staff and customers understand and are protected from hazardous situations at work. This includes providing appropriate training. A failure of a manager to exercise their primary duty under the WHS Act can result in severe penalties.

Agsafe Achievers 2012

Every year, 11 Agsafe accredited stores are awarded the Agsafe Achievers Award for being stand-out performers and proactive in their agvet chemical safety needs. Each month, facilitators across the country nominate stores that have remained up-to-date with their chemical WHS needs and were actively improving their work environment.

This year, Agsafe Achievers were awarded for improved practices including updating paperwork processes for incidents, adapting warehouse layout to improve traffic flows and keeping the workplace clear of obstacles.

The Honour Role for 2012

Total Ag Landmark Narembeen, WA - January
Landmark Kingston, SA - February
Dalby Rural Supplies, QLD - March
Elders Holbrook, NSW - April
Morrison Bros Derrinallum, VIC - May
Walcha Veterinary Supplies, NSW - June
Lindsay Rural, VIC - July
Growers Agrishop, WA - August
Robert’s Limited Ottalinds, TAS - September
Territory Rural Darwin, NT - October
Walter Agencies, SA - November/December

Training Drill

In 2012, August Achiever winners Growers Agrishop (pictured) got together to see what would happen when a 1,000 litre chemical container is speared by a forklift in a mock chemical spill.

David Buckley, the store General Manager said the team wanted to put their Agsafe skills to the test to find the quickest and safest way to handle the situation.

“We all got together near our truck, shut the gate for an hour and tried to spear a 1,000lt drum filled with water to find out the best approach to an incident like this,” he said.

“We handle a lot of 1,000lt drums and most of them are dangerous goods which is why we undertook the project. We’re constantly looking at safer ways to respond in case our truck has a spill out on the highway.”

“We’re all about continuous improvement. It doesn’t matter how well you’re doing something, you should always be looking at ways to improve it.”

The numbers

870 premises visited
396 stores awarded Agsafe Advanced
137 Basic online people trained
436 face-to-face Basic people trained
465 people re-accredited via face-to-face training
940 members re-accredited online.

1110
DrumMuster Update

DrumMuster is a national product stewardship program that collects and recycles eligible, pre-cleaned agricultural and veterinary chemical containers. The program is supported by agvet chemical manufacturers, as well as industry stakeholders, which include member and farming associations along with state and local governments.

Reaching a milestone

In September 2012, DrumMuster saw the return of the 20 millionth empty agvet chemical container to be recycled through the program.

The drum was returned by farmer Malcolm McKenzie who returned his container to the Riverina Co-Op’s collection centre which supports children’s charity Country Hope in Wagga Wagga, NSW. In the past three years, Country Hope has overseen the collection of empty and clean agvet chemical containers at six rural merchandise stores in the Riverina. Charities and community groups can collect 25 cents from DrumMuster for every drum inspected. Country Hope represents just one of over a hundred different charities and community groups that run DrumMuster collection sites across the country.

Most DrumMuster collection sites are managed by local councils at waste management depots and transfer stations, others are taken on by community groups like rural fire-fighters and sporting clubs. 20 million drums represent around 25,000 tonnes of waste avoiding landfill and being recycled into new things.

Henty Field Day 2012 celebration

DrumMuster celebrated its 20 million milestone at the 2012 Henty Field Days, and invited some of the partners, friends and volunteers who have all done their bit towards reaching the significant milestone and making environmental history at the same time.

ABC’s Landline’s Pip Courtney hosted proceedings and praised the important role that DrumMuster played in sustainable farming. The Chairman of AgStewardship Australia, Lauchlan McIntosh, presented an award to the deliverer of the program’s 20 millionth drum, local farmer Malcolm McKenzie and the Director of Country Hope, Bob Linnett. Mr Linnett was also presented with $3,000 towards the charity for his efforts in helping organise DrumMuster in Wagga, while Mr McKenzie generously donated his $500 prize to Country Hope.

Rural Press magazine supplement

In the lead-up to the 20 million drum milestone, DrumMuster released a 16-page supplement and guide on the program’s success through country media outlet, Rural Press. The supplement highlighted a number of the stories of those involved with the program, including inspectors, farmers, community groups and stakeholders. The lift-out was published in eight newspapers with a circulation of nearly 150,000 across Australia.

New Manufacturers Join Up

Last year, the Industry Waste Reduction Scheme (IWRS) welcomed 10 new agvet chemical companies to the program, allowing their product waste to be collected and recycled under DrumMuster and ChemClear.

At the end of 2012, 99 companies were participating through agreements with AgStewardship Australia

Inspector Training

During the year, DrumMuster trained 200 council workers, community group members and fire fighters in inspecting drums and re-trained 400 existing inspectors.

Since 1999, DrumMuster has trained nearly 6,000 inspectors through 1,341 training courses. Training continues to be provided by DrumMuster’s nine state-based consultants to make sure inspectors are safe and efficient in making sure drums are free of chemical residue before recycling.

DrumMuster: The Facts

- More than 25,000 tonnes of waste metal and plastic have been diverted from landfill thanks to the efforts of DrumMuster supporters.
- Equates to 465,000 cubic metres of uncompacted waste, enough to fill more than 120 Olympic-sized swimming pools.
- DrumMuster collected more than 2.2 million drums in 2011-12, the most collected in a single year.
- Recycling one 20 litre plastic drum would save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for 18 hours.
- 540 collection agencies including 454 local councils have signed up to DrumMuster.
- There are 788 collection sites across Australia.

Grain guru a DrumMuster champ

When Bruce Watson returned to run his family farm almost 10 years ago, he knew he had to do something about the big pile of chemical drums in his cattle yard.

“I came back to the family business in 2003 and we made a decision to get the drums off the place and we thought DrumMuster was the best avenue to do so,” Bruce said.

From that day on, Bruce never looked back and regularly headed into town to offload the containers he used for growing winter cereals at the family owned business, near Parkes, NSW.

He said it was a passion for grain and his experiences as an academic, a farmer and an executive that led him to embrace DrumMuster. "You try and do the best to look after the environment because if you don't do it your business is going to be compromised as a result," he said. "When we get close to a full load of drums, we call Len at the Forbes Urban Landcare, who runs the DrumMuster site, and we arrange a time to drop them off. It's pretty easy to be really honest." "It's a great program. All farmers should use it.”

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Since 2003, ChemClear has helped hundreds of farmers and other users of agvet chemicals to manage chemical storages and deliver solutions for chemical waste disposal. ChemClear enjoys the support of more than 99 participating agvet chemical manufacturers and industry stakeholders, including farming associations and local and state governments. Over the past nine years, the program has collected and disposed of more than 352 tonnes of obsolete, inherited and unknown agvet chemicals. Almost all (98%) of the chemicals collected are used as an alternative fuel source in the manufacturing of cement. Most of the material is destroyed in kilns which reach temperatures in excess of 1,800°C.

### WA April Collection

More than 100 farmers used ChemClear during its state wide collection in Western Australia during April and May 2012.

The collection vehicle travelled 10,700 km, visited 38 council sites and collected more than 18 tonnes of unwanted agvet chemicals from 104 waste holders.

It was ChemClear’s third collection in WA with a total of 57 tonnes of agvet chemicals collected over the past five years.

Most of the chemicals were either no longer in use or inherited.

Tom Tate, a beef farmer near Margaret River said it was a hazard to his grandchildren to keep his chemicals.

“My grandchildren are precious and there is no way I am going to risk their welfare by having these old chemicals sitting in the shed any longer,” he said.

### Victoria Regional Collection

Victorians in Gippsland and parts of the South West were treated to a mid-year clean-up from ChemClear in 2012.

In just four days, the ChemClear truck collected more than 1,700 litres of unwanted agvet chemicals from waste holders in the Coldstream, Bairnsdale, Morwell, Leongatha, Ballarat and Mornington regions.

More than 915 litres of the chemicals came from the 99 manufacturers who participate in the ChemClear program (Group 1) and were disposed of free of charge.

The rest of the chemical waste was unknown agvet chemicals or products from non-participating companies (Group 2) which attracted a fee for disposal.

### NSW’s End-of-Year Clean-Up

ChemClear’s NSW collection in November cleaned up 11,383 litres of product from around the state.

A total of 6,381 litres of chemical classified as Group 1 was collected for free, while the remaining 5,002 litres were collected under the program’s Group 2 classification.

Stone fruit and orchid grower Ken Harrison from Analuen, near Braidwood, NSW, said an EPA audit brought some unregistered chemicals to his attention.

“I didn’t know it had been an issue because it had just been sitting there,” he said. “ChemClear is a good service and I would use it again.”

In total, 58 local councils across NSW were involved in the collection, which saw the ChemClear truck visit Albury, Harden, Bombala, Moree, Cobar, Coonamble, Port Macquarie and many other towns in between.

### Dorothy’s chemical problems solved

Dorothy Halsall grows a small pasture of cattle feed in Yass, NSW and brought in her unwanted Group 1 and 2 chemicals during the state-wide collection.

Dorothy said the products were used on several of her paddocks, but she also took in left-over chemicals from neighbours and friends.

“I just wanted to get rid of all the excess chemicals,” she said.

“I don’t like having toxic chemicals lying around. I have them all locked up in my little shed but they’re taking up so much space and I just wanted to get rid of them.”
Agsafe announces a new membership structure. Stores can now achieve a four year accreditation cycle instead of the standard two year cycle.

The Culgoa Landfill site operator, Henry Doyle is awarded the drumMUSTER Achievement Award for helping collect more than 18 tonnes of unwanted agvet chemicals from 100 waste-holders.

Landmark Kingston, SA named February Agsafe Achievers.

The Culgoa Landfill site operator, Henry Doyle is awarded the drumMUSTER Achievement Award for helping collect more than 300,000 drums over 12 years.

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ChemClear’s collection in WA helped clear out more than 18 tonnes of unwanted agvet chemicals from 100 waste-holders.

Elders Holbrook, NSW named April Agsafe Achievers.

Morrison Bros Derrinallum, VIC named May Agsafe Achievers.

ChemClear’s local run in Victoria collects 1,700 litres of chemicals.

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