Evan D Esch, MSc PAg
Entomologist, OKSIR
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Dear OKSIR Area Grower,

I am the Entomologist for the Okanagan Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program (OKSIR), a government run, area-wide integrated pest management program for controlling the codling moth in Okanagan apple and pear orchards. I am also a Professional Agrologist, in good standing with the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists. The following letter is regarding the CanadaGAP pollinator health addendum and questions about your audit. This letter outlines the services OKSIR staff provide to all apple and pear farms in the OKSIR program area, containing all orchards in the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys from Osoyoos to Salmon Arm.

OKSIR program staff conduct a number of pest management activities to control the codling moth (*Cydia pomonella* (L.)), the most destructive pest of apples. Systematic monitoring (Criteria 2.1) occurs in all program orchards. Pheromone baited traps were operated for 20-22 weeks, and are checked weekly. Monitoring records (Criteria 2.3) are communicated to growers via e-mail and are posted/stored online oksir.org/orchard- information / trap-viewer/. These trapping records are used to inform pesticide applications for the key pest of apples and pear (Criteria 2.2). The pheromone traps have an established action threshold of 4 wild moths over a 2 week period, which can inform the need for spraying (Criteria 4.1). Sprays against codling moth should not be applied unless an action threshold are met, or scouting activities conducted by OKSIR staff (2.1) indicate the need. Weather driven spray timing for controlling the codling moth are used to direct management recommendations (4.1). OKSIR staff are trained in insect identification (3.1) and understand codling moth life cycle to target vulnerable life stages (Criteria 3.2).

In most fruit growing regions outside of the OKSIR program area, insecticides are applied preventatively to control the codling moth. The OKSIR program uses sterile insect releases as a Non-chemical approach to prevent (Criteria 1.1) and control (Criteria 5.1) the codling moth in all orchards in the program area. The sterile insect technique is an autocidal pest control strategy, which is similar to biological/behavioral control methods. Sterile male moths are released into the orchard and mate with the wild population, which disrupts the wild pest life cycle. Sterile moths are released in all orchards in the program area. The release rate of insects is adjusted in response to size of the wild population.

As a professional agrologist and pest manager, my expertise is available to all program area growers. Information about agricultural chemical risk, including Environmental Impact Quotient, is prepared and shared annually with all

Growers in the program area (Criteria 5.2). As well, pesticide group numbers are shared with growers so that the mode of action can be rotated if needed (Criteria 6.1) (see attached pesticide recommendation "Tech Sheet"). Weather driven, pest and disease phenology models are available to all growers, thanks in part to support from the OKSIR program. The BC Decision Aid System, is an online tool that provides pest and disease phenology models for the codling moth and other key pests and diseases, as well as models for pollinator foraging, pesticide effects on natural enemies, and other information (ca.decisionaid.system) (Criteria 4.1). I am happy to provide any additional information about my capacity as a professional agrologist on your behalf. I can be reached at the number below.

Sincerely,

Mr. Evan Esch MSc. PAg.
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