

**Office of Eastland County Judge
Rex Fields**

5 Nov 2009

**County Judge Rex Fields Releases Information
about Deer Poisoning in Eastland County**

If you are one of the few people in Texas who have not called my office about a deer poisoning incident in Eastland County, please allow me to briefly explain what has happened, what is being done, and what will be done. Last month, an agent of the Texas Department of Agriculture called to inform me about a suspected wildlife poisoning incident south of Cisco near the Rising Star highway. An insecticide named Temik had been misused by applying it to corn and then the corn was placed around some peanut fields. The contamination of the peanut fields has killed a number of feral hogs, at least one deer, and two birds. Enforcement authorities are assessing possible violations of state and/or federal law. If an investigation finds that an individual did break the law, they could face administrative penalties, civil penalties, and possible criminal prosecution.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is working with federal and state agencies including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Sheriff's office to investigate this incident involving the misuse of the pesticide Temik in the southwestern area of Eastland County in early October. A peanut field near Hwy 183 and CR 173 has been confirmed to have Temik-treated corn. Another location near Hwy 206 and CR 218 is suspected to have Temik-treated corn.

The following is excerpted from information that TDA sent me about Temik and its effect on animals: Temik is a registered and approved insecticide. Corn seed samples collected from the site have confirmed the presence of high levels of Aldicarb – an active ingredient found in Temik. Aldicarb is highly toxic and only a small amount is needed to kill an animal, but it could be rapidly metabolized and eliminated from an animal's body. Temik's impact on animals is as follows: Temik can be harmful to wildlife and domestic animals that may come into contact or feed on something that has the pesticide. Toxicologists suggest that a deer that ingests a lethal dose of Temik will die very soon after ingestion, likely in the immediate vicinity. However, it's possible for a deer to ingest the pesticide and quickly eliminate it from its body.

Finally, here is the bottom line on hunting and venison precautions: Hunters should never eat carcasses of animals found on the ground or animals that appear sick or diseased. TPWD biologists are also monitoring the impact on deer and other wildlife and threats to hunters and others. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) may be releasing more information about the effects and should the state agencies of DSHS, TAD or TPWD give me more information, I will update the public.

Respectfully submitted

Rex Fields

Eastland County Judge