

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 1781**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 25 November 2008**

**MR WENDT** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

What were the significant achievements in 2007-08 for the Chemical Use and Food Safety Program and what is the outlook for 2008-09?

**ANSWER:**

In 2007-08 Biosecurity Queensland's Chemical Use and Food Safety program achieved all of its Ministerial Portfolio Statement targets despite several key staff working for many months in the Equine Influenza Response.

Some of the highlights of 2007-08 were:

- Queensland's food industry has been assisted to maintain its reputation for safe, high quality products over the last 10 years through Infopest software. This software product has provided industry and scientists with essential access to 8 889 labels of registered agvet products and to over a million pieces of information.
- No endosulfan residues were detected in Australian beef during the summer spray season. Endosulfan residues have threatened market access in the past and there was real danger that this valuable agricultural chemical could be restricted and not available to the cotton and horticulture industries.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) successfully prosecuted a stock food business, under the *Agricultural Standards Act 1994*, for selling products with too high levels of the harmful ingredient aflatoxin B1.
- A 'minor use' forum for industry was conducted in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

In 2008-09 the Chemical Use and Food Safety program will significantly contribute to the government's priorities of building on economic success and managing climate change and protecting the environment.

DPI&F officers will do this mainly by contributing to national and international chemical policy development. A major achievement has been a decision to harmonise national maximum residue limit setting processes.

So far, for the financial year of 2008-09, there has not been any major residue or contaminant issues, merely one-off trace-back investigations required from state or national surveys. However, Biosecurity inspectors who work in this program received training in Toowoomba in mid December to ensure a rapid response to any market closures due to residues.