

## ***SOUTHEAST AREA EXTENSION SAYS***

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### **Are You In Compliance?**

Prairie dogs are enjoying the spring too and now is the time to treat your fields and pastures.

But before you buy the pesticide, do you know all the laws?

SE Area Extension offices have been getting a number of calls regarding prairie dogs these days, so let's set the record straight. You must first hold a valid "Restricted Use" license issued by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Some of you may still have EPA licenses and they are still valid, but check closely at the expiration date. Those with EPA licenses are required to take the Colorado Department of Ag test and pass it with 70 percent proficiency.

If your license is current, make sure that you are able to do the application. "Private Applicators" can apply restricted use chemicals on your own property (or leased property), but you cannot apply these chemicals "For Hire".

**Rozol** is a Restricted Use pesticide that is commonly used for control of gophers, mice, rats and prairie dogs, to name a few. In fact the Lithatech Company has 47 different formula variations for **Rozol** listed on their website. The lesson here is to make sure you get the right formulation for the right pest. **And always read your label.**

At a recent pesticide training workshop held in Baca County, CSU Soil and Crop Specialist Alan Helm reminded growers that the applicator is to make sure that he/she knows what is on the entire label, "and that may include other pamphlets or information online as well," he says.

The other issue with **Rozol**, which is labeled for use on prairie dogs, is the fact that the label says you “must make sure your area is designated as ‘clear’ (as in they are not present) of Black Footed Ferrets. Black Footed Ferrets are an endangered species and have been found to co-habitat with various species of prairie dogs. The only one that can “clear” an area is the Colorado Department of Wildlife and the U.W. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Farmers and ranchers would need to check with your local Division of Wildlife and their endangered species list and ask for a “clearance” for any application on their property or lease ground, according to Scott Heinley, of the Department of Agriculture.

### **Now for the good news!**

The eastern half of Colorado was “block cleared” for Black Footed Ferret back in September of 2009 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Colorado Department of Wildlife.

So, it is legal for farmers and ranchers with restricted use licenses to properly apply Rozol or similar pesticides labeled for prairie dog control as the label instructs.

We hope this clears up the confusion and we are happy to report that the conscientious farmers and ranchers are indeed making sure that they are doing proper applications of restricted use pesticides.

Thank you for your calls and questions. Please don’t hesitate to call your local Extension Office to answer questions like these and others. Our ability to get the right answer is the way we do business. All Colorado State University Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

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