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ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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Question number: 1504	Question date: June 14, 2017
Question asked by: Jamie Fox	
Question answered by: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Answer date: Oct 12, 2017

QUESTION:

Despite telling farmers this winter that your Government would educate rather than charge them for basic records offenses, why has your Government done a complete about face and returned to charging [sic] over things as basic as failing to record temperature?

ANSWER:

The Agriculture-Environment Unit (AEU) in the Department of Communities, Land and Environment continues to work with farmers to achieve compliance with environmental requirements. Compliance is the ultimate goal. The AEU has a range of tools at their disposal to help achieve compliance. These tools include education and compliance coaching, as well as enforcement actions (e.g., warnings, orders, and charges).

The AEU does come across pesticide application records that fail to meet the requirements of the *Pesticides Control Act*. Normally, farmers are educated and given an opportunity to improve their records. If farmers don't take advantage of this opportunity and record-keeping continues to be out of compliance, the AEU will use an enforcement tool to encourage compliance.

The AEU, however, is not the only agency that interacts with farmers on record-keeping. The Department of Justice and Public Safety's Investigation and Enforcement Section is responsible for all actions and outcomes related to the investigation of fish mortality events. Charges related to the discovery of non-compliant record-keeping during these investigations are at the discretion of the Department of Justice and Public Safety.