



CSP 44: Strawberry and Pesticide Residue Mini Survey

Conducted in 2025 with the Department of Health WA

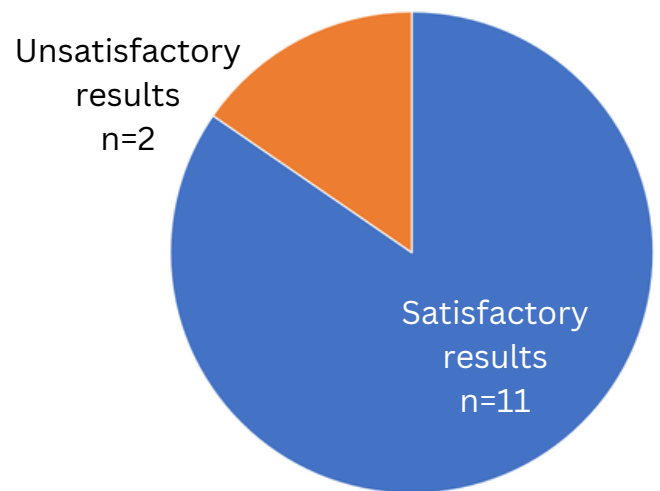
Project aim:

This survey aimed to gather baseline data on residual pesticide and fungicide concentrations in WA grown strawberries.

LHAAC and the Department of Health WA collaborated with Agrifood Technology to deliver this survey.

More than 150 pesticide and fungicide residues were analysed in each submitted sample.

Samples were tested from 13 WA strawberry farms



Results compared to maximum residue levels stated in Food Standards Code Schedule 20.

Two growers had excess levels of thiodicarb, dimethoate and omethoate:

- Dimethoate and Omethoate are broad use systemic organophosphate insecticides (1) while Thiodicarb is a carbamate pesticide (2). Both groups can have significant health impacts to humans through neurological effects.
- In November 2025, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) suspended certain dimethoate products and labels. This decision was based on new datasets on dietary consumption of blueberries, blackberries and raspberries in Australia. (3)
- “This new information demonstrates that Australian consumption of these berries has increased significantly above the quantity recorded in the data previously considered” (APVMA, 2025), increasing the dietary exposure to dimethoate residues. (3)

Follow up testing by local governments indicated reduced levels of pesticide and fungicide residues. The majority of results were within prescribed limits.

Complete report is available at:
www.lhaac.org.au

Contact us for more information:
lhaac@ecu.edu.au

References:

1. Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) 2004, Dimethoate and omethoate review: scope document, APVMA, Canberra, viewed 24 April 2026, <https://www.apvma.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication/14216-omethoate-phase-3-scope.pdf>
2. Pub Med 2015, Organophosphate and carbamate poisoning, viewed 6 May 2026, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25455666/>
3. Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) 2025, Gazette No. 23, Tuesday 11 November 2025, APVMA, Canberra, viewed 28 April 2026, <https://www.apvma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-11/Gazette%20No%2023%2C%20Tuesday%2011%20November%202025.pdf>