



# Department of Justice

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## **UNREGISTERED & MISBRANDED PESTICIDE AT A TULARE DAIRY SUPPLY LEADS TO GUILTY PLEA AND SENTENCE**

FRESNO, Calif. – United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that GENE DWAYNE CORDENIZ, 60, of Tivis, New Mexico, pleaded guilty on Wednesday and was sentenced by United States Magistrate Judge Gary S. Austin, in Fresno, to three years probation, an \$8,000 fine, and payment of a total of \$37,595 in restitution, on three misdemeanor violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

This case was the product of an extensive investigation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kirk E. Sherriff, who prosecuted the case, CORDENIZ formerly owned and operated GB&S Marketing Inc., a dairy supply company in Tulare, Calif. GB&S produced, sold, and distributed a chlorine bleach product called “Liquid Sani” to dairies for use as a pesticide to sanitize and disinfect dairy equipment. FIFRA makes it a misdemeanor offense to distribute or sell a pesticide that has not been registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to distribute or sell a misbranded pesticide, or to produce a pesticide at an establishment that has not been registered with the EPA.

CORDENIZ admitted in his plea that neither he nor GB&S had registered Liquid Sani with the EPA, but nonetheless sold and distributed it between August 2004 and March 2008. He also admitted that they had produced Liquid Sani at a facility that was not registered with the EPA. He caused GB&S to misbrand the Liquid Sani products by listing on Liquid Sani labels, without authorization, an EPA product registration number that did not belong to Liquid Sani and an EPA establishment registration number that did not belong to the GB&S facility.

“Through the sale of unregistered, misbranded pesticides, Gene Cordeniz placed his customers’ dairies and the public at risk of producing and consuming contaminated dairy goods,” stated Nick Torres, Special Agent-in-Charge of EPA’s Criminal Investigation Division in San Francisco. “This conviction sends the message to all those who would put profit ahead of industry and consumer safety that the EPA will pursue criminal sanctions against individuals who knowingly and willfully violate federal environmental laws.”

CORDENIZ was ordered to pay restitution to the following entities for the cleanup of a chemical spill at the unregistered facility that produced the dairy sanitation products:

- (1) \$1,304 to the City of Tulare Fire Rescue
- (2) \$9,040 to the City of Visalia Haz-Mat Response
- (3) \$21,046 to Parc Environmental Construction
- (4) \$6,205 to Tulare County Environmental Health Services.

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