

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
GRASSHOPPER & MORMON CRICKET
CONTROL

2024

PROGRAM SUMMARY



INVASIVE
SPECIES OF IDAHO

Introduction

Although grasshoppers and Mormon crickets are a natural part of Idaho's ecosystem, under the right conditions, their population densities can reach levels that result in negative economic and environmental impacts. These impacts have labeled grasshoppers and Mormon crickets as some of the worst agricultural pests in Idaho. Due to the significant historical losses caused by these pests, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) implemented the Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Control Program (GHMC) in 2004 to provide qualifying landowners with mitigation assistance on private range and cropland throughout the state.

Background

The Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Control Program provides assistance to landowners on a case-by-case basis. Landowners actively experiencing grasshopper or Mormon cricket infestations on qualified agricultural-use lands may request assistance from the ISDA. The program offers two forms of assistance: 5% Carbaryl insecticide bait or a pre-approved reimbursement for insecticides purchased and applied by the landowner. Reimbursement is for situations where Carbaryl bait is not the most effective control method. Management and timely control of grasshopper and Mormon cricket populations are key to the success of the program. According to annual surveys conducted by The U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Service (USDA-APHIS), Idaho has experienced severe pest outbreaks in years past. 2023 was one such year; however, 2024 showed a significant decline in requests and total acreage. This year, the program received 224 landowner assistance requests spanning 28 Idaho counties. It provided assistance by way of 5% Carbaryl bait or insecticide reimbursements to treat approximately 75,164.12 acres* of agricultural land in Idaho.

*5% Carbaryl bait treatment acreages are calculated using the recommended rate of 10lbs./acre using the Reduced Agent and Area Treatment (RAAT) method.

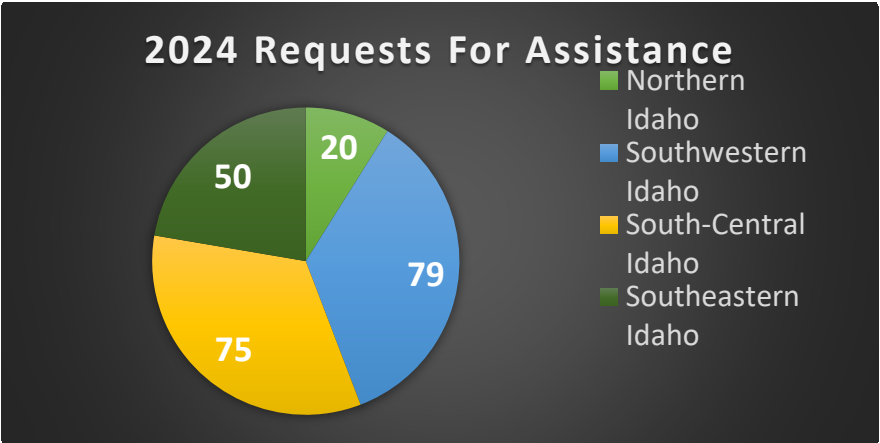
Program Updates

There were some significant changes in the GHMC program in 2024. Jason Ansay (the one with the beard) started as the new Program Specialist/GHMC Program Coordinator at the end of June. It was a bumpy start during the peak of the season with a statewide bait shortage, but it served as GHMC boot camp. Jason started with the Department 3 years ago as an Agriculture Investigator Sr. with Field Services. His primary duties were as an Authorized Certification Official (ACO) issuing phytosanitary certificates for international export of seed, seed sampling, and field inspections for export purposes. He also conducted feed and fertilizer sampling, nursery inspections, insect survey trapping, and was the coordinator for Southwest Idaho's bean trials as part of the bean rule. He raises a few beef cattle and some hay in his spare time.

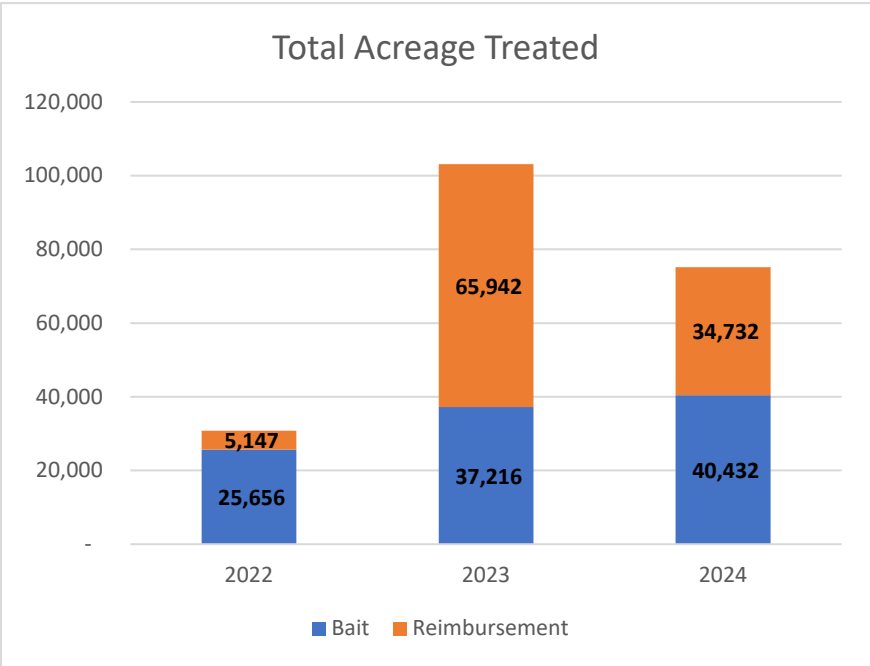


Program Accomplishments

In the 2024 season, the program received 224 landowner assistance requests, resulting in 201,640 pounds (lbs.) of bait and \$547,622.86 of reimbursements distributed in 28 counties. In comparison, the 2023 season saw more landowner assistance requests (385), resulting in 186,080 pounds of bait and \$823,848.15 in reimbursements. Comparing 2023 to 2024 shows an overall reduction in requests, in fewer counties, with less total acreage treated.



In 2024 requests came from 28 counties, the majority originating from the Southwest and South-Central parts of the state.



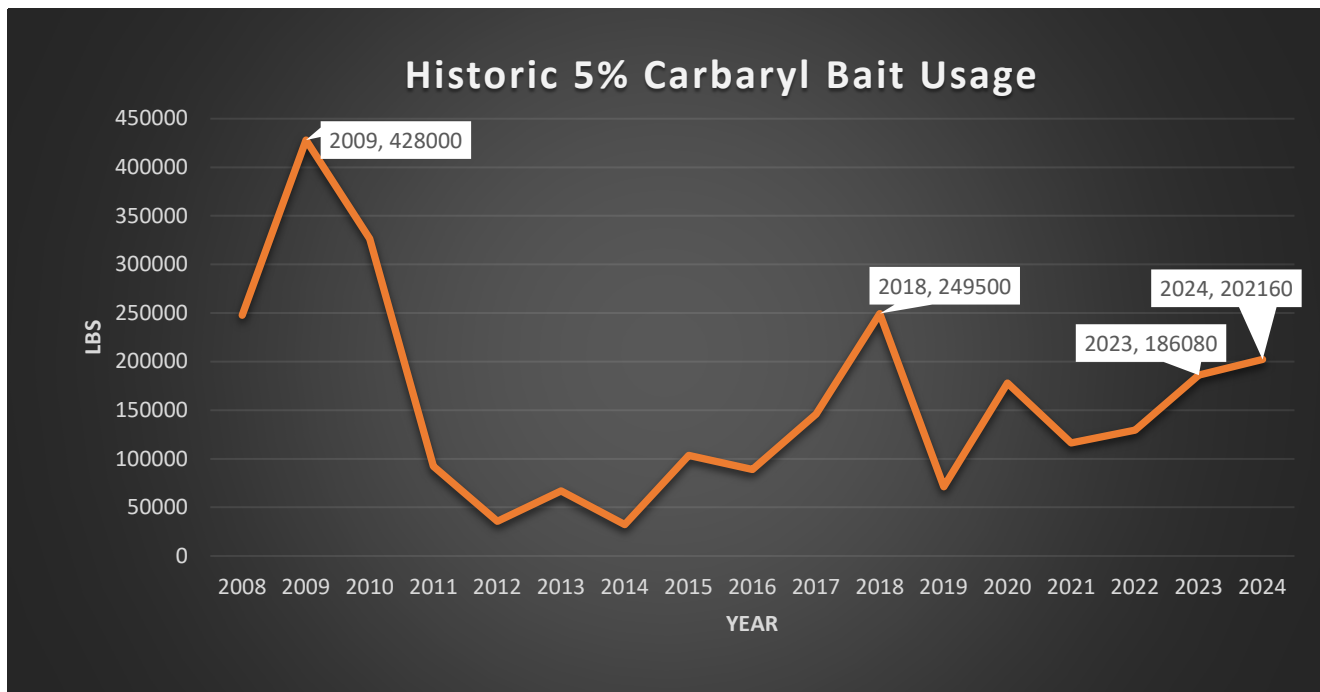
**5% Carbaryl bait treatment acreages are calculated using the recommended rate of 10lbs./acre using the Reduced Agent and Area Treatment (RAAT) method.*

Program staff were able to scout 523 sites statewide and conduct surveys for grasshoppers and Mormon crickets simultaneously. Public reports and survey data indicated the need to perform a right-of-way treatment on five miles of Highway 20 in Elmore County.

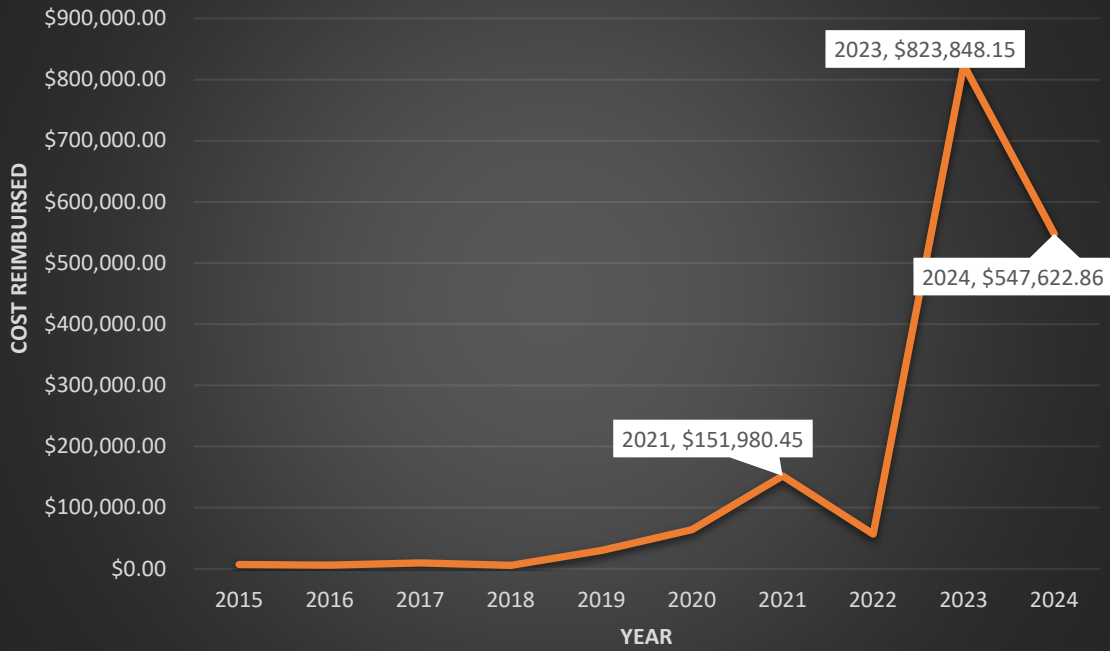
In summary, the overall cost of insecticides to assist landowners and mitigate roadway hazards statewide decreased from \$1,060,169.75 in 2023 to \$804,366.06 in 2024.

Summary of Insecticide Treatments Statewide

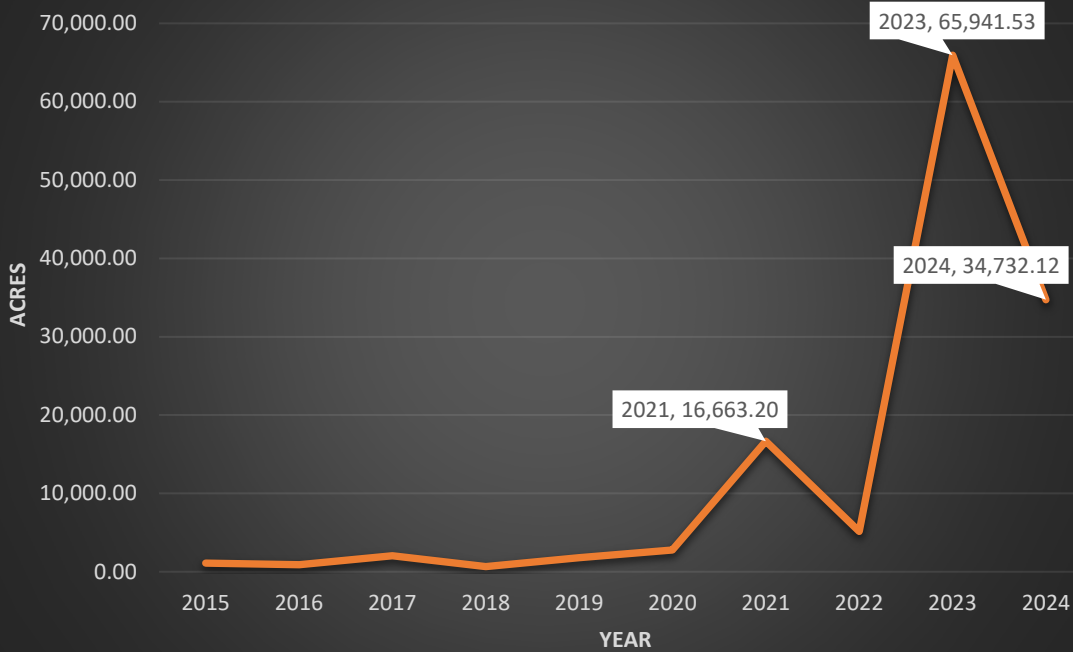
Method of Application	Lbs. (\$1.27/lb.)	Value
5% Carbaryl bait, Landowner application, Total Private	201,640	\$256,082.80
5% Carbaryl bait, ISDA State/ROW application, Mormon cricket control	520	\$660.40
Total 5% Carbaryl bait distributed	202,160	\$256,743.20
Landowner reimbursement for grasshopper & Mormon cricket control	34,732.12 (acres treated)	\$547,622.86
Total cost of all treatments	—	\$804,366.06

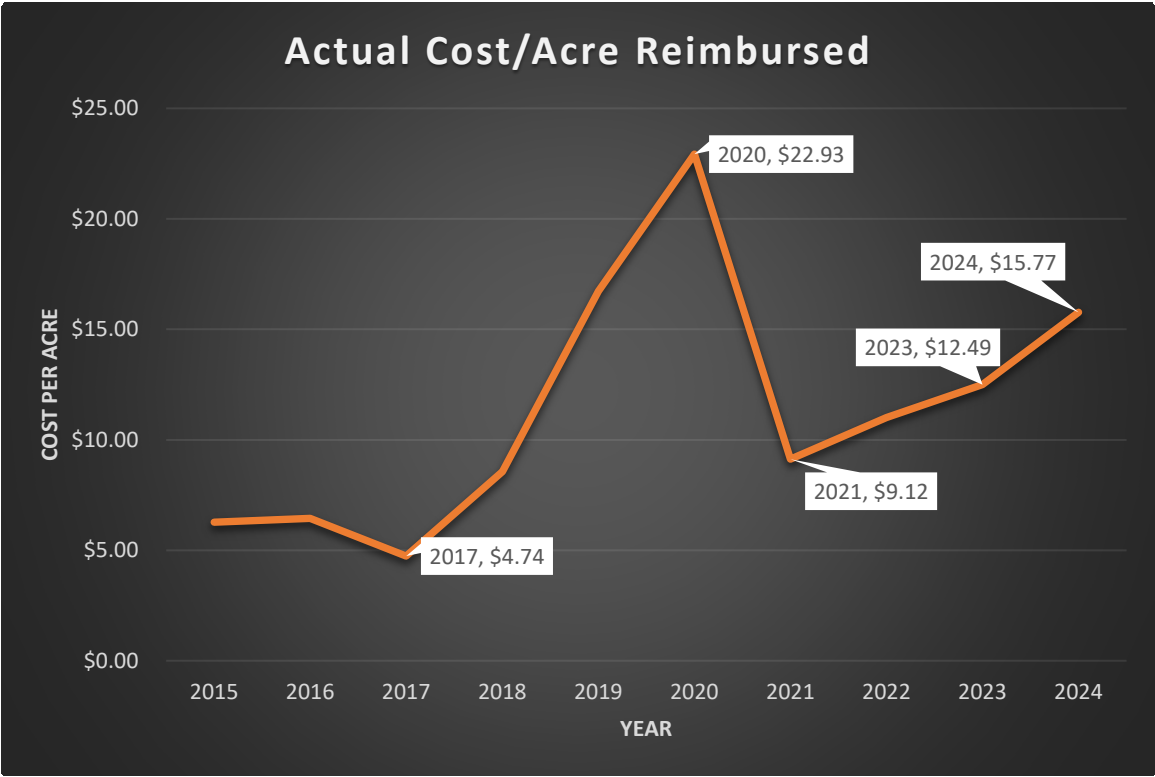


Historical Cost Reimbursed



Historical Acreage Reimbursed

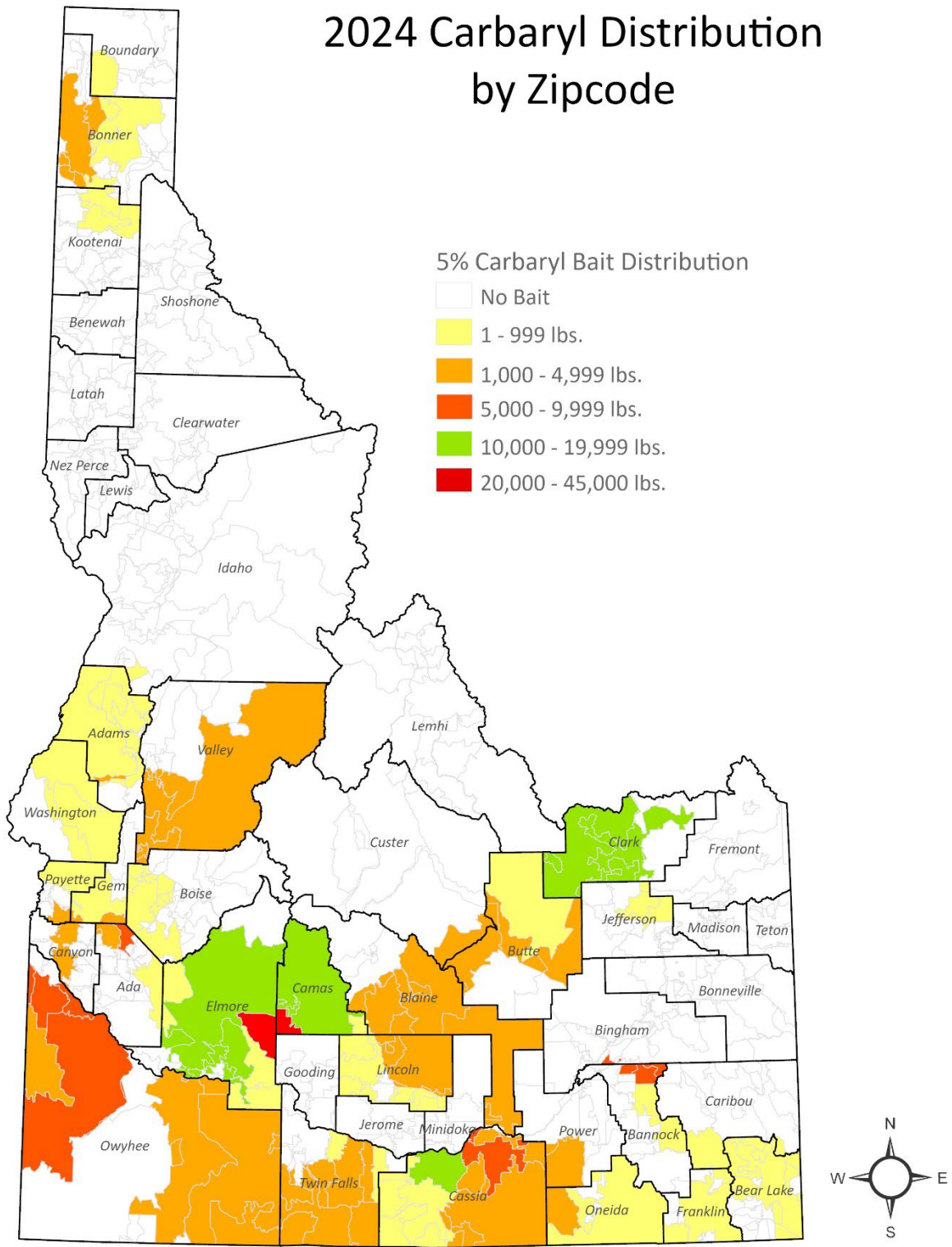




Outbreak Areas

When severe grasshopper or Mormon cricket outbreaks occur, it is crucial to respond in a timely manner to prevent total loss of pasture/range and cropland. In these situations, the ISDA may declare specific geographic areas as outbreak areas, allowing for a swifter response. In 2024, the ISDA declared outbreaks in Cassia, Elmore, Franklin, and Owyhee counties. Cassia and Franklin counties experienced larger-than-normal hatches of grasshoppers, which resulted in a higher volume of requests for assistance and increased reimbursements to handle the infestations. Owyhee and Elmore County experienced a larger-than-normal hatch of Mormon crickets, resulting in a higher volume of requests for assistance and bait distributed.

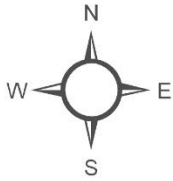
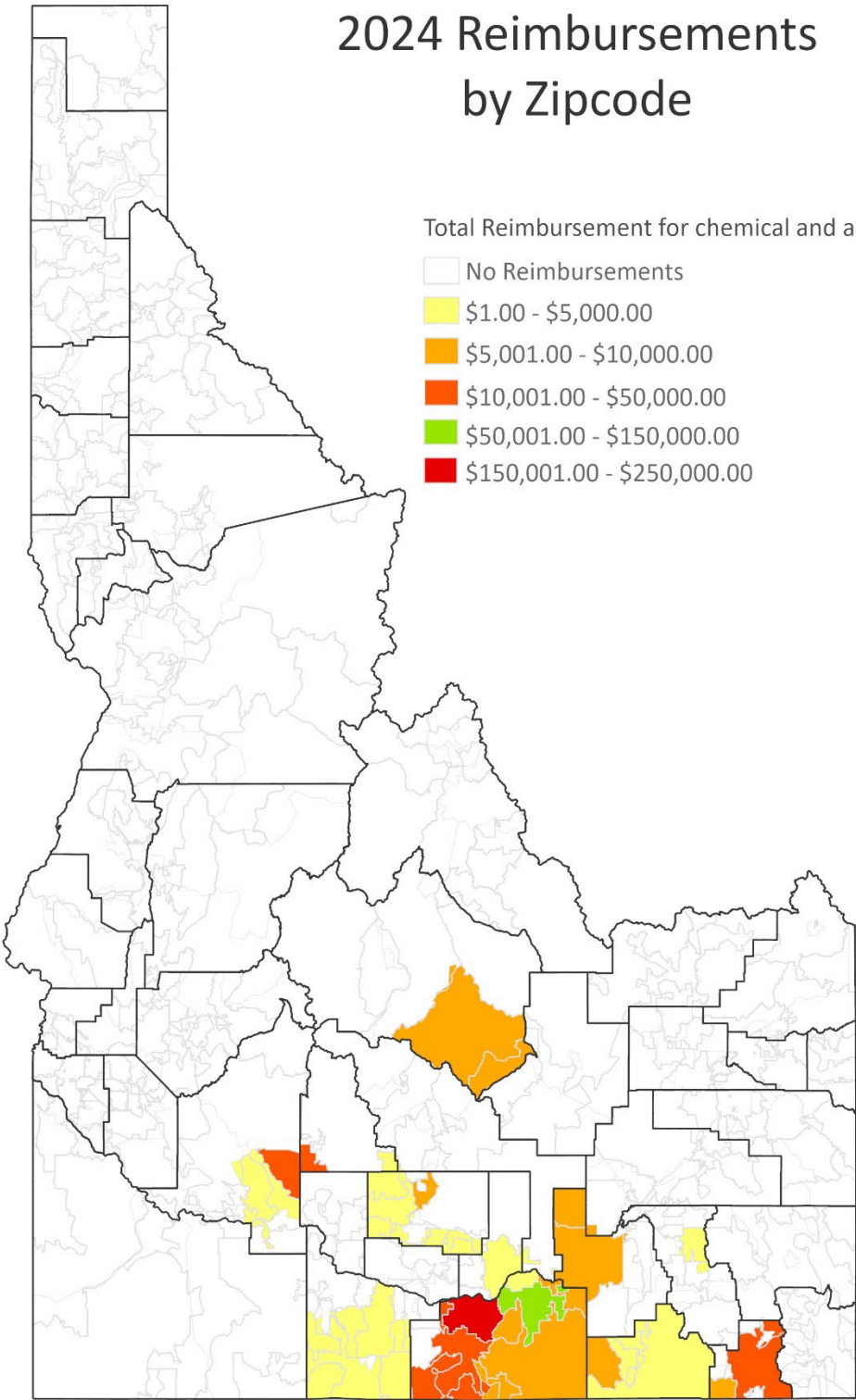
2024 Carbaryl Distribution by Zipcode



2024 Reimbursements by Zipcode

Total Reimbursement for chemical and adjuvants

- No Reimbursements
- \$1.00 - \$5,000.00
- \$5,001.00 - \$10,000.00
- \$10,001.00 - \$50,000.00
- \$50,001.00 - \$150,000.00
- \$150,001.00 - \$250,000.00



Major Program Cooperators

The great success of the Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Control Program would not be possible without the partnerships we have forged over the years. The following cooperators provided significant help in fielding landowner assistance requests, bait storage and distribution, and overall program delivery:

- Adams County Weed Control
- Elmore County Pest Abatement
- Franklin County Road & Bridge
- Idaho Transportation Department
- Owyhee County
- Jordan Valley CWMA
- Payette County Weed Control
- Simplot Partners
- S & P Enterprises
- University of Idaho, Extension Service
- USDA-APHIS



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