



Ohio Pesticide Safety Education Program

PEP-Talk, October, 2016

Volume 20, Issue 4

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New Worker Protection Compliance Manual is Available

The EPA has announced availability of the new Worker Protection Standard (WPS) compliance manual that includes the comprehensive 2015 rule changes. This is a must-read document for growers employing agricultural labor, employer/managers of crop pesticide-application businesses, and crop advisors. The manual is available to download in pdf format from the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (PERC). Worker and pesticide handler training materials are being developed by PERC and will be posted on the PERC site <http://pesticideresources.org/index.html> as they become available. Helpful resources, including a WPS worker training video with new content in both English and Spanish have already been posted to the site. Also see the Ohio Pesticide Safety Education Website WPS page for information about the new rule. <http://pested.osu.edu/home/quicklinks/wps>

Compliance with most new WPS rules is required by January 2, 2017. Compliance with new application exclusion zone restrictions and new content in both training and centrally displayed safety information is not required until January 1, 2018. The Ohio Department of Agriculture has the authority to enforce WPS in Ohio and conducts WPS inspections.

Sources: <http://pesticideresources.org/index.html>
<http://pested.osu.edu/home/quicklinks/wps>

Heavy Bee Kill in North Carolina from Aerial Spraying

On the early morning of August 28, beekeepers in Dorchester County, South Carolina experienced heavy losses from aerial mosquito spraying. One beekeeper reported losses of more than 2 million bees in 46 hives killed outright from the application, which took place between 6:30 and 8:30AM. County officials apologized two days later for failing to notify area beekeepers.

The aerial application was made in response to four travel-related cases of Zika virus; the virus was not known to be present in the local mosquito population. The pesticide that was used was Naled, an organophosphate insecticide that has been registered for controlling mosquito adults since 1959. Applied as an ultra-low volume aerosol, it kills mosquitoes on contact. Naled is toxic to bees; however, it has been used to treat millions of acres in the U.S. without incident. Events suggest that the heavy losses could have been prevented if local government had communicated effectively with beekeepers prior to the application, and if spraying had finished before sunrise. There also is speculation that very warm evening conditions stimulated unusual behavior in the bees called “bearding,” which occurs when bees cluster on the outside of hives instead of seeking the protection of the hive.

Atrazine Review

Every 15 years, pesticides registered in the U.S. come up for routine reassessments. Atrazine and other triazine herbicides are undergoing that process now. Ecological risk assessments are part of the review process for pesticides that are used outdoors. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published the Draft Ecological Risk Assessments for atrazine, and grower groups have responded strongly and negatively to the draft. In the next step of the review process, a FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) will review EPA's evaluation of the effects of atrazine on aquatic plant communities and the weight-of-evidence approach for effects on aquatic phase amphibians used in the Draft Ecological Risk Assessment. For more information on atrazine and the process see <https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/atrazine-background-and-updates>

What's Going on with 2, 4-D and Dicamba-Resistant Cropping Systems?

Growers have been anticipating the arrival of new herbicide-resistant technologies for several years, but obstacles have thwarted most growers from adopting them. The Monsanto Xtend soybeans with glyphosate and dicamba resistance have cleared their export hurdles, but the companion low-volatile dicamba formulations have not yet received registration in the U.S. Growers began planting the Xtend dicamba-resistant soybeans on a limited basis this past season, despite the fact they lacked a dicamba product for over-the-top use. This occurred mostly in the southern United States. In late June, drift issues were widespread with thousands of acres of crop injury in Arkansas and Missouri, with most of the injury showing up on non-dicamba resistant soybeans. Growers of Xtend soybeans were under investigation for making off-label, illegal applications of dicamba.

Dow AgroScience has developed the Enlist weed control technology with 2, 4-D and glyphosate resistance. The Enlist Duo companion herbicide received its U.S. registration in corn and soybeans, but Enlist traits have not received import approval in China. The export situation held back planting of Enlist Crops in the U.S. this past season.

Source: <http://www.soybeansouth.com/departments/feature/off-label-dicamba-use-spurs-drift-injury-and-complaints/>

Big Chemical Companies Get Bigger

Bayer, a giant in pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals announced a 66 billion dollar deal to take over Monsanto, the U.S. developer of Roundup and the biggest producer of genetically modified seeds in the world. U.S. regulators are weighing the decision about what would be the largest ever takeover of a U.S. company by a German company.

Other deals affecting agriculture include the proposed merger of Dupont Co. and Dow Chemical. After the merger, the new entity is expected to split into three separate, publicly-traded companies in agriculture, materials science, and specialty products. The European Commission's antitrust authority is currently reviewing the merger. In the U.S., Senator Charles Grassley from Iowa has raised concerns in Senate hearings about the effects of both the Bayer-Monsanto and Dupont-Dow mergers on reduced competition on U.S. Agriculture.

ChemChina, an agriculture company owned by the Chinese government, is seeking to take over the Swiss company Syngenta, the largest pesticide company in the world. The \$43 billion deal would be the largest foreign takeover by a Chinese company. The acquisition was approved in August by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. A decision from European regulators is expected later this month.

Zika Team and Website

Members of Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Department of Veterinary Medicine recently formed a working group to share timely information on the Zika virus and vectors. The team has launched the B.I.T.E. website (Biting Insect Team Education) go.osu.edu/bugbite to provide information on the Zika virus as well as other biting insects and insect-borne diseases. Biweekly Arbovirus (insect-transmitted virus) updates from the Ohio Department of Health can be found here along with other timely information for Ohio residents.

Source: go.osu.edu/bugbite

Upcoming Events

More information about the following events is at: <http://pested.osu.edu>

2017 Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Conferences

January 19, 2016 (Thursday) – Sandusky, Ohio (Kalahari Conference Center)
 February 10, 2017 (Friday) – Dayton, Ohio (Dayton Convention Center)
 February 15, 2017 (Wednesday) – Akron, Ohio (John S. Knight Center)
 February 28, 2017 (Tuesday) – Columbus, Ohio (Columbus Convention Center)

Pesticide Safety Training – Commercial New Applicators & Trained Servicepersons

February 22, 2017 (Wednesday)
 March 22, 2017 (Wednesday)
 April 19, 2017 (Wednesday)
 May 24, 2017 (Wednesday)
 August 16, 2017 (Wednesday)
 October 4, 2017 (Wednesday)

Core and Trained Serviceperson trainings are held in the morning, and Categories 8, 5, 2c, and 6c in the afternoon.

Structural Pest Control – Category 10a

February 21, 2017 (Tuesday)

Wood Destroying Insect Inspection

January 26, 2017 (Thursday)

Visit pested.osu.edu for more details.

Courses taught at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg, Ohio

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