

PEP-Talk, April/May, 2005

Pesticide Education Program
Ohio State University Extension
Joanne Kick-Raack, State Coordinator
Cindy Folck, Communications
Vol. 9, Issue 4

In This Issue

- [Court Rules in Farmers' Favor for Crop Damage](#)
- [How Much Are Herbicides Worth?](#)
- [Improved Labels for Mosquito Control Products](#)
- [Children's Exposure Study Cancelled](#)
- [Mosquito Vector Control Workshops](#)
- [New Active Ingredients Registered](#)
- [Label Changes Anticipated for Endangered Species](#)
- [New Date for PAT Agent Inservice](#)
- [Wood Destroying Insect Inspection](#)
- [Pesticide Crop Watch](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

Court Rules in Farmers' Favor for Crop Damage

The Supreme Court ruled that 29 peanut farmers in Texas could proceed with their lawsuit against Dow AgroSciences. The farmers claim that Dow failed to warn of possible crop damage risks of Strongarm, a herbicide used by the farmers in 2000. A lower court dismissed the farmers' claim, reasoning that federal law bars states from imposing labeling requirements on pesticides other than those set by EPA. The Supreme Court decision opinion said the farmers' claims could also involve questions of whether the product or manufacturing was defective. (*Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Update, April 25, 2005.*)

How Much are Herbicides Worth?

Farmers could lose more than 289 billion pounds or \$13 billion in farm income if weeds were left unchecked in crop production. The numbers are from a report issued by the Crop Protection Research

Institute. The report estimates the total value of herbicides to be more than \$21 billion for farmers. These economic benefits include a \$7.7 billion reduction in weed control costs and savings of approximately \$13.3 billion in potential crop losses. The institute also emphasizes the importance of herbicides in conservation production practices such as no-till. The report is available at http://www.croplifefoundation.org/cpri_benefits.htm (Source: *Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 33, No. 22*)

Improved Labels for Mosquito Control Products

EPA is issuing seven new recommendations for mosquito labeling to pesticide registrants. The products involved are applied by ultra-low volume aerial or ground application methods for control of adult mosquitoes. The changes are intended to help public health mosquito control officials. The recommendations are:

1. Adult mosquito control applications should be limited to trained personnel;
2. Mosquito control directions and precautions should be clearly distinguished from any other use directions allowed on the label, such as agricultural crops;
3. Label precautions and directions should be revised as needed to make hazards to aquatic life as clear as possible, and also to allow the application of these products over or near a body of water allowable under some circumstances;
4. Users should consult with the state or tribal agency for pesticide regulation to determine if permits or other regulatory requirements exist;
5. Labels should specify a spectrum of spray/fog droplet sizes, and indicate that droplet size should be determined according to directions from equipment manufacturers or other appropriate sources;
6. Precautionary language to protect bees should have a provision to allow mosquito control applications in order to respond to threats to public health which are identified by health or vector control agencies on the basis of evidence of disease organisms or disease cases in animals or humans; and

7. Labels for adult mosquitoes should include limits on timing and number of applications to the same location.

EPA is currently in the review and public comment period for these label recommendations. (*Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Update, March 9, 2005.*)

Children's Exposure Study Cancelled

EPA has cancelled a planned study of children's exposure to pesticides in their homes. Called the Children's Health Environmental Exposure Research Study, the focus was to determine how children were exposed to pesticides in their homes, and the types of pesticides used regularly in a home. The study came under attack by environmental groups who accused EPA of putting children at risk through the study. (*Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Update, April 8, 2005.*)

Mosquito Vector Control Workshops

Do you know any pesticide applicators who will be doing mosquito spraying this year? Encourage them to attend the Vector Control Workshops, coordinated by Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Department of Health. These workshops will be held around the state in June and the dates and locations are listed below.

Applicators will be able to bring in their mosquito ULV spraying equipment for droplet testing. The sprayers must be in working condition and calibrated prior to the workshop. Droplets can be taken only using pesticide as the spray, so have some pesticide in the tank.

At selected locations, an educational program and license exam testing will be available. The program includes a morning of new applicator training for the mosquito category on a pesticide applicator license. Applicators will be able to take their licensing exam the same morning. The afternoon educational session will feature an update on West Nile Virus and mosquito control. Pesticide recertification credits for the mosquito category will be

available in the afternoon session. The dates and locations of the workshops are:

- **June 8** - Lake County Health Department, 550 Black Brook Rd., Painesville Township, Educational session, ODA license exam and ULV droplet testing ALL available.
- **June 9** - Toledo Area Sanitary District, 5015 Stickney Ave., Toledo, ULV droplet testing only - NO education session or ODA license exam testing will be available
- **June 15** - Whitehall Community Park, 402 Hamilton Rd., Whitehall (Columbus area) Educational session, ODA license exam and ULV droplet testing ALL available.
- **June 16** - Whitehall Community Park, 402 Hamilton Rd., Whitehall (Columbus area) ULV droplet testing only - NO education session or ODA license exam testing will be available
Registration is \$10/person for the educational session or \$10/machine for ULV droplet testing.

On-line registration and more information is available on the Pesticide Education Program website at <http://pested.osu.edu> or by calling (614) 292-4070.

New Active Ingredients Registered

The registration of 26 new active ingredients was a highlight of the EPA annual report, available on-line at <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/annual/2004/04annualrpt.pdf> . Of the 26 active ingredients, 14 are biological, two are antimicrobial, five are reduced-risk conventional and five are conventional pesticides. The report states that these ingredients represent alternatives for organophosphates and methyl bromide. In 2004, EPA also registered 231 new food uses for previously registered active ingredients which include 40 reduced risk, 20 organophosphate alternatives and 10 methyl bromide alternatives.

Jim Jones, director of the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), discussed the annual report during a recent speech. "OPP is well on its way to meeting the Food Quality Protection Act deadline to reassess all 9,721 tolerances by August 2006, with more than 7,000 completed at the end of fiscal year 2004," he said. He pointed out

that the reassessments that will be done must meet the new safety standard of a reasonable certainty of no harm. (*Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs 2004 Annual Report.*)

Label Changes Anticipated for Endangered Species

EPA is working on changes for the Endangered Species Protection Program, which may result in changes to pesticide labels and county bulletins. The label changes will amend pesticide labeling so labels may include language that directs users to their local bulletins. The endangered species bulletins available at the county level will include specific areas where the pesticide could not be used because of endangered species. EPA anticipates the review and implementation process will take until the October 2008 deadline for reregistering older chemicals. (*Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, March 21, 2005*)

New Date for PAT Agent Inservice

The Pesticide Applicator Training Agent Inservice for OSU Extension will be December 8 and 9, 2005. This is a move from our usual date in early January. The program will be held in the Agriculture Administration Auditorium on OSU Campus in Columbus. The new date will help to avoid conflicts with other programming and allow educators more preparation time for county schools. Hopefully, there will be less treacherous weather for traveling!

Wood-Destroying Insect Inspection Training - June 1

June 1 will be the next training session for inspectors wanting to become licensed for wood-destroying insect inspections. Ohio regulation requires a license for anyone performing insect inspections as part of a real estate transaction. The license requires the inspectors to attend a mandatory five-hour training session and take a test.

Anyone interested in attending the training can go to the Pesticide Education Program website at <http://pested.osu.edu> to register. If there are any questions, they can call the program at (614) 292-4070. The class will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.. The

registration, which includes lunch, is \$90 if pre-registered and \$100 at the door. Ohio State University Extension Educators who would like to learn more about inspecting structures for insect damage can attend the training at the discounted rate of \$25. Call (614) 292-4070 for more information.

Pesticide Crop Watch

Herbicides

Dicamba - Research sponsored by Monsanto has begun at University of Nebraska-Lincoln to develop new crops tolerant to this broadleaf herbicide. Monsanto anticipates having the seed ready in the beginning of the next decade.

Misc.

CCA - Chromated copper arsenate (CCA) has been removed from the consumer market, prompting EPA to create an information page on CCA alternatives. These are listed at:<http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/reregistration/cca/alternativestocca.htm>

(Sources for Pesticide Crop Watch: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 33, No. 25; EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Update, Feb. 25, 2005)

Upcoming Events

Wood Destroying Insect Inspection

June 1, 2005
Taught at ODA in Reynoldsburg
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mosquito Vector Control Workshops

June 8, 2005
Lake County Health Department
550 Black Brook Rd., Painesville Township

Educational session, ODA license exam and ULV droplet testing ALL available.

June 9, 2005

Toledo Area Sanitary District

5015 Stickney Ave., Toledo

ULV droplet testing only - NO education session or ODA license exam testing will be available

June 15, 2005

Whitehall Community Park

402 Hamilton Rd., Whitehall (Columbus area)

Educational session, ODA license exam and ULV droplet testing ALL available.

June 16, 2005

Whitehall Community Park

402 Hamilton Rd., Whitehall (Columbus area)

ULV droplet testing only - NO education session or ODA license exam testing will be available

Commercial New Applicator Schools

July 13, 2005

Categories: Core, Turf

Taught at ODA in Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Contact: Pesticide Education Program, OSU Extension, (614) 292-4070

October 11, 2005

Categories: Core, Turf

Taught at ODA in Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Contact: Pesticide Education Program, OSU Extension, (614) 292-4070

October 12, 2005

Categories: Core, Ornamentals, Industrial Vegetation

Taught at ODA in Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Contact: Pesticide Education Program, OSU Extension, (614) 292-4070

Pesticide Applicator Training Agent Inservice

December 8 & 9, 2005

Agriculture Administration Auditorium,
OSU Campus - Columbus