

PEP-Talk, April, 2010

Pesticide Safety Education Program
Ohio State University Extension
Joanne Kick-Raack, State Coordinator
Cindy Folck, Communications
Dennis Mills, Private Applicator
Vol. 14, Issue 4

IN THIS ISSUE

New Restrictions Announced for Phosphine Fumigants
Roundup Ready Sugar Beets Planted for Now
New Labeling Requirements for Bug Bombs
Heart Attacks Not Associated with Pesticide Exposure
EPA Insect Repellent Website
Mosquito Vector Control Workshops
West Nile Virus Summary Report from 1999-2008
Upcoming Events

NEW RESTRICTIONS ANNOUNCED FOR PHOSPHINE FUMIGANTS

EPA has announced expanded restrictions on aluminum and magnesium phosphide products used to control burrowing rodents. These products are formulated as tablets and pellets that transform to gas when exposed to moisture. These fumigants have been associated with accidental poisoning incidents (see PEP-Talk, March 2010). These products continue to be restricted to specially-trained pesticide applicators.

The expanded restrictions include:

- * Use is strictly prohibited around all residential areas, including single and multi-family residential properties, nursing homes, schools (except athletic fields, where use may continue), day care facilities, and hospitals.
- * The products must only be used outdoors for control of burrowing pests, and are for use only on agricultural areas, orchards, non-crop areas (such as pasture and rangeland), golf courses, athletic fields, parks and recreational areas, cemeteries, airports, rights-of-way, earthen dams, and other non-residential institutional or industrial sites.

* Products must not be applied in a burrow system that is within 100 feet of a building that is or may be occupied by people or domestic animals. This buffer zone for treatment around non-residential buildings that could be occupied by people or animals has been increased from 15 feet to 100 feet.

* When this product is used in athletic fields or parks, the applicator must post a sign at entrances to the treated site containing the signal word DANGER/PELIGRO, skull and crossbones, the words: DO NOT ENTER/NO ENTRE, FIELD NOT FOR USE, the name and EPA registration number of the fumigant, and a 24-hour emergency response number. Signs may be removed 2 days after the final treatment.

* When this product is used out-of-doors in a site frequented by people, other than an athletic field or park, the applicator shall post a sign at the application site containing the signal word DANGER/PELIGRO, skull and crossbones, the name and EPA registration number of the fumigant, and a 24-hour emergency response number. Signs may be removed 2 days after the final treatment.

* Fumigant Management Plans must be written before all applications of phosphine products, including all burrowing pest fumigations. A Fumigant Management Plan is a written description of the steps designed to plan for a safe, legal and effective fumigation. The certified applicator and owner of the property to be fumigated must characterize the area to be treated and include all safety requirements in the plan before application.

The new labels will be applied to products manufactured within 30 days and provided to applicators by May 1, 2010. (Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, 4/7/2010)

ROUNDUP READY SUGAR BEETS PLANTED FOR NOW

A preliminary injunction request in an ongoing court case was denied by a federal judge in San Francisco, so farmers were allowed to plant Roundup Ready sugar beet seed this year. The judge ruled that planting had already started and it was too disruptive for the injunction to be implemented this spring.

Last fall, the same U.S. District Court judge ruled that USDA failed to adequately assess the environmental impact of biotech sugar

beets before allowing commercialization of the crop in 2005. The case, *Center for Food Safety v. Schafer*, will have a hearing on July 9, 2010 for the main issue of whether Roundup Ready sugar beets should be banned until the USDA completes an Environmental Impact Statement. It's estimated the impact statement would take two to three years to complete.

(Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 38, No. 18)

NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUG BOMBS

By September, 2011 manufacturers will be required to make numerous changes to bug bomb, or total release foggers (TRF), product labels. The changes are required to improve residential safety and reduce risk by improving comprehension of the label directions. EPA wants the labels to have more easily-read text and prominent headings. Pictograms, directions given with pictures, will also be required to further enhance clarity and risk understanding.

EPA is striving to help the users of TRF products understand the explosion hazards and the amount of time required for the residence to be vacated after releasing the fogger. Door hang-tags will also be required to warn people to stay out of the treated area for a designated amount of time. More information about the label changes is available

at: http://epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb_page/updates/2010/new-foggers.html

(Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, 3/24/2010)

HEART ATTACKS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH PESTICIDE EXPOSURE

Recent analysis in the Agricultural Health Study indicates there is little evidence of increased risk of heart attacks associated with the occupational use of pesticides. The findings by researchers for the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences were published in the October 1 issue of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

The Agricultural Health Study was started in 1994 to study potential causes of cancer and other diseases among farmers and commercial pesticide applicators in Iowa and North Carolina. Participants reported pesticide use, lifestyle and medical information when the study began in 1997 and have participated in regular follow-up

interviews. By 2003, only 839 men out of 32,000 interviewed had reported a non-fatal heart attack and by 2006, only 476 men out of the 54,000 enrolled in the entire study had died from a heart attack.

The researchers looked for an association between the lifetime use of 49 pesticides and both non-fatal and fatal heart attacks. The researchers observed, "Little evidence of increased risk of myocardial infarction mortality or non-fatal myocardial infarction associated with the occupational use of pesticides."

(Source: American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 170, No. 7, pp. 892-900; Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 37, No. 52).

EPA INSECT REPELLENT WEBSITE

EPA has launched a website with product information for skin-applied insect repellents. The website is designed for consumers to view relevant information for mosquito, tick and other biting insect protection.

The website contains easy-to-read tables with information about individual insect repellent products. The tables provide the active ingredient of each product along with the percentage of the active ingredient. The number of hours the product will repel mosquitoes is also on the table and is based on the effectiveness data reviewed by EPA. The website will also show if the product protects against various insects or just mosquitoes.

The website can be accessed

at:<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/insectrp.htm>

MOSQUITO VECTOR CONTROL WORKSHOPS

Do you know any pesticide applicators who will be doing mosquito spraying this year? Encourage them to attend the Mosquito 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 mosquito and vector control updates. Pesticide recertification credits for the mosquito category and core will be available in the afternoon session.

The dates and locations of the workshops are:

JUNE 7 (MON.) – Whitehall Community Park, 402 Hamilton Rd., Columbus

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

JUNE 8 (TUES.) - Whitehall Community Park, 402 Hamilton Rd., Whitehall (Columbus area). Educational session, ODA license exam and ULV droplet testing ALL available.

JUNE 9 (WED.) – Lake County Health Department, 550 Black Brook Rd., Painesville Township, Educational session, ODA license exam and ULV droplet testing ALL available.

JUNE 10 (THURS.) – Toledo Area Sanitary District, 5015 Stickney Ave., Toledo, 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. The workshops are made possible through a grant from the Ohio Department of Health. Registration forms and more information are available on the Pesticide Safety Education Program website at: <http://pested.osu.edu> or by calling (614) 292-4070.

WEST NILE VIRUS SUMMARY REPORT FROM 1999-2008

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has released the West Nile Virus Surveillance Summary for 1999-2008. The report contains information from 47 states with confirmed and probable cases of West Nile Virus. During the time period, there were 28,961 cases

which includes 11,822 WNV neuro-invasive disease cases. The report is available at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5902a1.htm?_cid=ss5902a1_e

UPCOMING EVENTS

More information about these events at: <http://pested.osu.edu>

NEW APPLICATOR CORE AND TRAINED SERVICEPERSON TRAINING

All classes taught at Ohio Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg

April 28, 2010

May 19, 2010

August 25, 2010

September 22, 2010

WOOD-DESTROYING INSECT INSPECTION TRAINING

September 29, 2010 – Ohio Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg

OSU EXTENSION EDUCATOR PESTICIDE APPLICATOR INSERVICE

December 8 & 9, 2010 – Ohio 4-H Center, OSU Campus, Columbus

OHIO COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION CONFERENCES (General and Field Crops Combined)

January 11, 2011 – Sandusky, Kalahari Conference Center

February 16, 2011 – Dayton Convention Center

March 2, 2011 – Akron, John S. Knight Center

March 9, 2011 – Columbus Convention Center