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PEP-TALK

OSU Pesticide Education Programs

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Included In This Issue...

Welcome to PEP-Talk!

Welcome to the new PEP-Talk newsletter from the Pesticide Education Program. Look for us the first and the third week of every month. Based on comments from the agent survey at our pesticide in-service, we will be covering a range of topics including pesticide label and product changes, brief summaries on key pesticide issues, regulatory updates and periodic feature articles. Also, we will share research highlights and training ideas. Please let us hear from you -- we welcome your input! You can send us feedback or news by directing your e-mail to our office at roush-kopczewski.16@osu.edu or contacting our office at the address listed at the end of this newsletter.

We will also distribute a hard-copy of the newsletter in county mailings for the first few months so that counties can decide if they wish to subscribe. To begin receiving the newsletter electronically, follow these steps:

1. Send an e-mail message: To:listserv
2. Send the one line message: subscribe PEP-TALK

If you have difficulty receiving the newsletter electronically, notify us to receive a hard-copy.

Joanne Kick-Raack
Coordinator, Pesticide Applicator Training

Pesticide Training 1996-97

Recertification Dates

- Tues. Nov. 26, 1996 Cleveland / Independence Holiday Inn
- Tues. Dec. 17, 1996 Dayton, Convention Center
- Thur. Jan. 16, 1997 Perrysburg, French Quarters Holiday Inn
- Thur. Jan. 28, 1997 Columbus, Convention Center

PAT Agent In-service

- January 7, 1997 New Agent In-Service Fawcett Center
- January 8-9, 1997 Fawcett Center

Commercial New Applicator Schools - Fawcett Center

- February 25, 1997 (5a) Industrial Vegetation (10d) Mosquito, Fly, Vector
- February 26, 1997 (8) Turf
- February 27, 1997 (6a) Ornamentals (2a/c) Agronomics

Chemical & Label Update

AgriMek (avermectin) - Residue tolerances Established - The EPA established residue tolerances on bell peppers a 0.01 ppm for the insecticide Agri-Mek. (Ag Chem. News, 12/15/95)

Agri-Mek (avermectin) - Celery Restriction Removed From Label - The Merck company removed from their Agri-Mek insecticide label the restriction for usage in celery seedbeds. (Ag Chem. News, 12/15/95)

Asulox (asulam) - Ornamentals Added to Label - Rhone Poulenc's Asulox herbicide has added to the label the usage on English ivy, periwinkle, mugo pine, white pine and Japanese spurge.(Ag Chem. News, 12/15/95)

B-Nine Sp (diminozide) - Label Changes - Changes on the label for the growth regulator B-Nine Sp include changing the signal word to DANGER and the addition of "For use only in commercial or research greenhouses or shadehouses." (Ag Chem. News, 12/95)

Casoron 4G & Casoron 10G (dichlobenil) - Uses Deleted from labels - Uniroyal deleted from their Casoron herbicide labels the use on peaches, nectarines, plums and prunes for 4G, and deleted aquatic usages for 10G. (Ag Chem. News, 12/15/95)

Command (clomazone) - Residue Tolerance Established - As a result of the IR-4 Project, EPA has established residue tolerances on cabbage, cucumbers and summer squash at 0.1 ppm for the FMC Command herbicide. (Ag Chem. News, 12/15/95)

Checkmate PTB (pheromone) - Concep Inc. Request Approved - EPA has approved a request to register Checkmate PTB (peach twig borer pheromone) a new active ingredient. (Ag Chem. News, 12/15/95)

Dimilan 25W (diflubenzuron) - Received Registration for Fungus Gnats - The Uniroyal Dimilan 25W insecticide received EPA registration for control of fungus gnats in greenhouses and shadehouses. (Ag Chem. News, 12/15/95)

Dimilin (diflubenzuron) - Annuals Added to Label - The Uniroyal company, as a result of the IR-4 Project, has added primrose and lobelia to their Dimilin insecticide label. (Ag Chem. News, 12/15/95)

Spotlight on 2,4-D

A Bruised and Battered Herbicide Asks for a New Lease on Life

The U.S. Department of Agriculture registered 2,4-D in 1947 as the first selective agricultural herbicide to control weeds without damaging crops. Its use in agriculture continues to expand as reduced tillage gains popularity. Due to 2,4-D's low cost and its efficacy against many weed species, it's a 'perfect' herbicide and has found its way into weed management programs involving rights-of-way, turf, aquatics, and forestry.

Congress amended FIFRA in 1988, mandating that all pesticides registered before November 1984 be subject to reregistration. The intent was to ensure that 'old' products like 2,4-D meet current regulatory standards...that their potential benefits outweigh potential risks, based on current criteria.

DowElanco, AGRO-GOR, Nufarm USA, and Rhone-Poulenc formed a task force in 1988 to coordinate and share the costs associated with developing the data required by the reregistration process. The 270 new studies required to reregister 2,4-D were due to be submitted to the agency by the end of 1995.

To date, the studies haven't raised any major red flags relative to human health and wildlife. The task force believes that 2,4-D, with its low toxicity and low dietary exposure, will meet the "no unreasonable adverse effects" criteria written into FIFRA. The cost for such optimism: $25 million.

But there is still a fly in the ointment. During this eight-year period, the National Cancer Institute and others have raised a number of epidemiological questions on the possible link between 2,4-D and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma among farm workers. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) is not a single disease but a group of diseases that are considered disorders of the immune system. NHL occurs infrequently (15 cases per 100,000).

The epidemiologist and toxicologists indicated that six different expert panels have reviewed the association between 2,4-D and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. All have arrived at essentially the same conclusion: 2,4-D does not cause NHL. The most recent EPA-appointed panel, the Science Advisory Board, wrote in March 1994, "...our conclusion at this time is that while there is some evidence that NHL may occur in excess in populations...exposed to 2,4-D, the data are not sufficient to conclude that there is a cause and effect relationship between...exposure to 2,4-D and NHL. The data are, however, sufficient to require continued examination of the issue through further studies."

The stage is set for 2,4-D to enter the decision phase of the reregistration process. EPA should render its reregistration decision on 2,4-D by 1997 in a document called the Reregistration Eligibility Document (RED). The RED will contain EPA's answer regarding the eligibility of reregistration, the rationale for their decision, and the need for additional data.

It is believed that the data package for 2,4-D will be as complete as for any pesticide product, old or new. One thing for sure is that the 4,000 peer-reviewed toxicology studies in a collection of 40,000 should provide sufficient evidence on which to base benefit-to-risk assessment. EPA's decisions will be scrutinized by all parties interested in seeing 2,4-D reregistered for use, as well as by those who believe this old herbicide should be removed from the marketplace.
(The Label, 1/96)

Reduced Risk Rule

A FIFRA Section 25(b) rule that would exempt certain reduced risk pesticides from registration requirements, signed by EPA Administrator Carol Browner Feb.28, would relieve regulatory burdens for these pesticides' producers and, hopefully, induce other pesticide manufacturers to develop safer alternatives for traditional pesticides, the agency said.

Another condition of the rule is that in order to qualify for exemption status, pesticide formulations would qualify only if all of the ingredients in the product were exempt. All inert ingredients contained in the formulation would have to be from the list of inerts identified as minimum risk inerts as published in the Federal Register as List 4A inerts on Sept. 28, 1994. (P&TCN, 3/6/96)

Phosdrin Product Recall

Amvac, the manufacturer of Phosdrin (common name mevinphos) has announced a recall of all unopened AND OPENED containers. This product could be sold and used only through November 30, 1995. Distributors and dealers will be receiving information about the details of the recall program.

Since there are no longer any labeled uses of this product, it is important to have growers return any Phosdrin that may be in the spray shed. Phosdrin was labeled broadly, and used as a broad-spectrum insecticide in fruit and other crops. It is a TOXICITY CATEGORY I product, meaning it is very hazardous to humans and other mammals.

Details should be obtained through the dealer or distributor where the Phosdrin was purchased.

Discontinued US Product names: Apavinphos; Duraphos; Mevidrin; mevinox; Phosdrin.
Uses: Contact / systemic insecticide - acaricide; control of aphids, lepidoptera, many other insects on may field, forage, vegetable and fruit crops. Again, all uses were Restricted.

A **Phosdrin Recall Hotline** has been established to assist with any questions: **call 1-800-205-5330.**
(R.G. Bellinger, e-mail, 12/8/95)

Consumer Labeling

EPA is putting the final touches on a Federal Register notice in which the agency will publicly unveil its planned consumer labeling initiative (CLI) to review labels for a variety of non-FIFRA household products.

Publication of the notice is the first formal step EPA will take as it considers ways to revise product labels for numerous home and garden pesticides and selected hard surface cleaners. The CLI, almost two years in the making, has been the subject of intense scrutiny by industry groups, many of which say EPA is overstepping its regulatory authority by attempting to regulate non-FIFRA products.

EPA will seek comments on the CLI for 30 days after the notice is published in the Federal Register.
(P&TCN 3/20/96)

WPS Public Meeting

Dr. Lynn Goldman and other EPA Headquarters staff will be holding a public meeting on WPS scheduled on August 21, 1996 at the 4-H Building in Tipton, Tipton County Indiana (35 Mi. North of Indianapolis).

We encourage anyone who would like to express their views on the WPS to attend this meeting. More specific information will follow in the next month or so.

Chemical Controversy

Our Stolen Future is the title of a new book that Vice President Al Gore describes as the sequel to Rachel Carson's classic work, *Silent Spring*. The book is the collaborative effort of Theo Colborn, a senior scientist with the World Wildlife Fund, Dianne Dumandski, an environmental reporter and John Peterson Myers, the director of the W. Alton Jones Foundation. The authors used a detective-style narrative that details for the lay public many of the research studies under discussion in Washington.

The focus of the text is the growing body of scientific research that indicates a number of man-made chemicals may interfere with the normal functioning of human and wildlife endocrine systems. These endocrine or "hormone" disruptors may cause a variety of problems with development, behavior and reproduction. The concern zero's in on decreased sperm counts around the world, breast cancer, impaired fertility and the possibility of passing reduced reproduction traits on to future generations. The book has and will cause controversy.

The official EPA background paper related to the publication of *Our Stolen Future* discusses plans to "empower people with information." EPA states that it is important to draw public attention to this environmental problem and emphasizes that they are already researching and taking steps to find answers. Included in this document is this statement: "Pesticides are routinely tested for reproductive and developmental effects as part of the registration process. Although these tests are not specifically designed to identify endocrine disruption, they can detect certain reproductive and developmental effects which may result from endocrine disruption."

EPA has already taken action to ban the use in this country of a number of the more environmentally persistent chemicals that have raised concerns about possible endocrine disrupting effects. These include PCBs and the following pesticides:

- Chlordane
- DDT
- Aldrin/Dieldrin
- Endrin
- Heptachlor
- Kepone
- Toxaphene
- 2, 4, 5-T

You should know that the book is out there (we purchased our copy from Little Professor for $23.95) and you will be hearing more about it. ("Our Stolen Future," D. Baumgartner, e-mail 3/15/96; C Crossen, news excerpt)

Psst.....

The FDA considers chocolate acceptable for public consumption, as long as there are less than 30 microscopic insect fragments per 2 oz. Of candy bar. (UF Entomology - Nematology October Newsletter, via The Label, 12/95)

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