

## PEP Talk, April, 2001

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### In this Issue

- [Exposure to Environmental Chemicals](#)
- [Ohio 24\(c\) Labels](#)
- [Wood Destroying Insect Inspectors](#)
- [Spray Boom Available](#)
- [New Agent Corner](#)
- [PAT Calendar of Events](#)

### Exposure to Environmental Chemicals

Data on background levels of organophosphate (OP) pesticides and other potentially toxic substances such as mercury, lead phthalates and heavy metals typical Americans carry in their bodies has been gathered by the government for the first time and is revealed in a "National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals," released on March 21.

The report will show that, on average, Americans eliminate 0.19 to 2.55 micrograms of OP pesticide metabolites per liter of urine, ranging from a low of 0.08 micrograms/L of urine for diethyl dithiophosphate (metabolite of phosmet and terbufos), to 22.9 micrograms/L of urine for dimethyl phosphate (metabolite of azinphos methyl, chlorpyrifos methyl, dicrotophos, malathion, methyl parthion, phosmet, temephos and tetrachlorvinphos).

The survey data on pesticide metabolites in the report was analyzed from urine samples provided by 703 volunteers in 2000 who were part of a larger cohort of 5,000 for the annual National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) conducted and collated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health.

According to a press release issued by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the advances in biomonitoring allowed the CDC to directly measure chemicals in blood and urine. This is instead of estimating population exposures by measuring air, water and soil samples.

"Based on this scientific advancement, the new report provides data on actual levels of chemicals in humans," wrote CDC. "As data are collected over the years, researchers will be better able to determine possible health effects and design appropriate public health strategies."

The American Chemistry Council has already expressed some reservation to CDC about how the data on pesticides, phthalates and heavy metals will be used by public interest groups. In a press release, the American Chemistry Council contends biomonitoring data alone is not an indication that anybody's health is being harmed.

"The health significance of biomonitoring data is virtually impossible to interpret without toxicity research that can help determine potential health hazards. We encourage CDC and other organizations to provide this context along with biomonitoring data. Without this essential framework, the mere presence of trace amount of substances in the body may be misinterpreted and cause unwarranted public alarm," said the American Chemistry Council.

The complete National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals is available at: [www.cdc.gov/nceh/dls/report/](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/dls/report/) In addition to pesticides and heavy metals, the report also looked at environmental tobacco smoke.

### **Labels Available on the Web**

Labels for [Ohio 24\(c\) registrations](#) are now available to be downloaded from our website. The labels are for products that have received state registration to meet a special local need. To use these products legally, the grower must have a copy of the Ohio 24(c) supplemental label. These labels are sorted by state license number. The list reflects the most current updates for registrations.

On the website, access the "[general information](#)" page to find the downloadable labels. While on the general information page, you can also access the EPA Restricted Use Products list, pesticide container recycling programs and emergency numbers which growers can print and post by a phone.

### **Wood Destroying Insect Inspectors**

A bill is currently going before the Ohio legislature that anyone doing wood destroying insect inspection for real estate transactions will need to become licensed. This includes companies or individuals who do not perform pesticide applications, but do make inspections.

To become licensed, it's proposed that each inspector must attend a training session approved by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). A new category will be established and inspectors will be required to pass the exam. They will also be required to be certified in category 10b, termite control, before becoming licensed. All wood destroying insect inspections for real estate transactions must use the NPCA-1 form, which will be taught during the training.

If the bill passes, it would go into effect 90 days after the governor signs it. The anticipated time frame is fall 2001 for the legislation to go into effect.

### **Spray Boom Available**

Great addition for summer field days! The Pesticide Education Program owns a spray boom available for demonstration purposes. Currently, the boom is equipped with the double nozzle spray system, air induction nozzles, turbo t-jet nozzles and flat fan nozzles. The nozzles can be changed to demonstrate any kind of system. The boom can be transported with a pickup truck. To reserve the spray boom, contact Dean Slates, OSU Extension, Holmes County at (330) 674-3015.

### **New Agent Corner**

Even though March brings a close to the intensive winter training season, pesticide applicator training (PAT) can happen all year. You can offer private PAT credits for meetings that include pesticide updates or core material. This includes field days, twilight tours and summer meetings. The entire meeting does not have to be devoted to PAT. Even if only one-half hour is PAT, you can still receive credit for that time slot.

If your meeting includes PAT credits, have each participant print (legibly) and sign their name, along with their pesticide applicator license number or social security number on the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) form. The ODA form will need to be submitted so the participants can receive their credit. You will also need to provide the PAT categories covered and the time spent.

Your meeting could also be advertised on our [website](#). The steps for having your meeting posted are:

- complete the agenda
- submit the agenda to ODA, Pesticide Regulation Section, for assigning of private PAT credits
- once entered into the ODA database, your meeting will be automatically posted on the website

You do not need pre-approval from ODA for your meeting to qualify for private PAT credits. This is only if you want to have the meeting advertised on our website. Otherwise, you can send the information to ODA after the meeting.

*Special note:* If you want your meeting approved for **commercial** PAT credits, you must have pre-approval from ODA. Please contact our office at (614) 292-4070 if you have any questions.

### **PAT Calendar of Events**

January 8, 2002 - PAT New Agent Inservice

January 9-10, 2002 - PAT Agent Inservice, Holiday Inn on the Lane, Columbus