PEP-Talk, December, 2001

Pesticide Education Program
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News from Pesticide Education Program

We have a new website address: http://pested.osu.edu. This domain should be easier for people to remember and relate to others. We still have the same information, including new listings for private applicator recertification and certification training. If you have already sent in your meetings, check out the listings to make sure everything is accurate. Look on the "Private Applicator" page. Send any additions or changes to Cindy Folck.

Have you registered for the Pesticide Applicator Training Agent Inservice? The inservice will be January 9 and 10 at the Holiday Inn on the Lane, Columbus. Registration will be on-line. For more information visit the registration page.

On January 8, we will be offering a Pesticide Applicator Training New Agent Inservice. This afternoon inservice is designed for extension agents and program assistants new to pesticide applicator training. The agenda includes the Ohio Department of Agriculture outlining the certification process and an agent panel on creating effective county PAT recertification schools. Click here for registration information.

Final Guidance on Disposal Language

The EPA Office of Pesticide Programs revised its 18-year-old guidance on disposal statements for non-antimicrobial, household pesticides. Registrants are expected to voluntarily comply with the new guidelines which go into effect October 1, 2003.

The following disposal statements should be on pressurized containers:

- Do Not Puncture or Incinerate - If empty: place in trash or offer for recycling if available.
- If partially filled: call your local solid waste agency (or toll-free number) for disposal instructions.

The following disposal statements should be on non-pressurized containers:

- If empty: do not reuse this container. Place in trash or offer for recycling if available
- If partly filled: call you local solid waste agency or (toll-free number) for disposal instructions. Never place unused product down any indoor or outdoor drain.

These revised guidelines removed the recommendation to, "securely wrap original container in several layers of newspaper and discard in trash." It was believed that trash handlers were unknowingly being exposed to pesticides. The guidelines also don't advise consumers to rinse such pesticide containers as bottles, can and jars. Some water systems were detecting pesticides that had been poured down the drain. There was a lot of public debate during the draft process for these guidelines.

There was strong opposition to any label statements directing consumers to put pesticides in the trash. Groups have demanded that additional steps be taken to keep household pesticides out of water supplies. Also, the issue was raised that many local solid waste districts might not be equipped or financially able to handle large amounts of unused pesticides. *(Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, September 24, 2001)*

IPM Efforts Lack Oversight

The General Accounting Office (GAO) issued a report saying federal efforts to promote integrated pest management (IPM) are suffering because of poor leadership, coordination and management. The report stated agricultural chemical use has increased in past years despite USDA's reports that IPM practices are being widely implemented. The report concludes that many of the IPM measures counted, such as monitoring for pests and cleaning farm equipment, do not decrease the use of

chemicals, the "original purpose of IPM." *(Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, October 8, 2001.)*

However, the GAO data does show that the use of "riskiest" pesticides has decreased. Somewhat misleading is the fact that the increased total use of pesticides figure actually includes the rise of sulfur, horticultural oils and Bt. These protectants, which are classified as pesticides, are often used in IPM and organic programs.

Bt Update

EPA announced the registrations of five varieties of biotech corn will be renewed for seven years. Under terms of the registration, companies must provide annual reports on the efficacy of resistance plans and implement remedial action plans if resistance occurs. The registrants must also educate growers on the best methods of planting Bt corn to avoid resistance.

Prior to receiving seeds, growers will be required to sign agreements verifying they have read the terms and conditions for their use. To monitor the new requirements, an independent, third party compliance survey of licensed growers will be conducted annually for the duration of the registrations.

EPA had determined that registered Bt corn varieties show no signs of harming monarch butterflies or endangered species and no evidence of allergenicity in humans. However, companies will be required to increase their environmental and compliance monitoring of the corn. Also, EPA announced that registration of Bt cotton will be extended for another five years, with limitations.

As a condition of the continued registration, EPA is requiring farmers to plant refuges, or sections of non-Bt corn or cotton. Refuges are designed to curb Bt resistance in insects by allowing insect populations to crossbreed with insects in the Bt fields. *(Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, October 8 & 22, 2001)*

Soil Bacteria Can Destroy Pesticides

Researchers at Australia's CSIRO Entomology have determined that naturally occurring soil bacteria contain enzymes which can break down pesticides into harmless compounds. A recent enzyme field trial on a cotton farm showed a reduction of organophosphate residues by 90 percent. *(Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, October 22, 2001)*

Arsenic Standard Set at 10 ppb

The national standard for arsenic in drinking water will be changed to 10 parts per billion (ppb), a dramatic decrease from the current standard of 50 ppb that has been in place for almost 50 years. Much of the debate surrounding the establishment of a new arsenic rule has centered on whether many communities can afford to reduce levels of arsenic in their water. According to EPA, nearly 97 percent of the water systems affected by the rule serve communities of less than 10,000 people. EPA says it plans to provide $20 million over the next two years for research and development of more cost-effective technologies to remove arsenics; critics argue that help may not come soon enough for smaller communities. *(Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, November 5, 2001)*

New Fact Sheets & Websites from EPA

Partnerships for Reducing Pesticide Risk is a new website from EPA which provides information on programs such as the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. The Integrated Pest Management site explains EPA's approach with information on IPM in agriculture, schools and the home.

EPA's Office of Water has announced the availability of the Draft Aquatic Life Criteria Document for atrazine. The report indicates the average and chronic criterion for levels of atrazine before affecting aquatic life. The document is available by calling (202) 260-7786 or e-mailing.

Pesticide Control Nationwide Number

A new, single nationwide telephone number has been established for the American Association of Poison Control Centers. The number is (800) 222-1222. When people call the number, a computer checks the area code and prefix of the caller's number and routes the call to the nearest poison control center *(Chemically Speaking, October 2001)*

Pesticide Crop Watch

Insecticides

Aventis has requested deletion of pesticide registrations for the following formulations of Mocap Nematicide-Insecticide (ethoprop): EC for use on field/sweet corn and 10% for use on golf course turf

Carbaryl Cutworm Bait (carbaryl), Western Farm Service has made a request to EPA to cancel all registrations for use on alfalfa and grapes.

Ethion, Cheminova/FMC has made a request to EPA to cancel all registrations for this product.

Larvin (thiocarb) Aventis label changes include the addition of the usage on sweet corn and to revise the restricted entry interval from 12 to 48 hours.

Success (spinosad) Dow AgroSciences has added to their label use on sugarbeets and garden beets.

Herbicides

Dual (metalachlor) Syngenta has requested EPA to cancel the registered use on stone fruits and almonds.

Pratt Triple X NA Weed Killer (acetic acid, (2,4-D)-2-ethylhexyl ester; prometon), Verdant has requested EPA to cancel the registered use in drainage ditchbanks.

Riverdale Chemical Company announces deletions of the following pesticide registrations for use on drainage ditchbanks/and or aquatic use: Riverdale 2,4-D L.V. 6 Ester, Riverdale Solution Emulsible, Riverdale 2,4-D L.V. 4 Ester and Riverdale Tri-Ester.

Fungicides

Penncozeb (mancozeb) Cerexagri added to their label the control of scab (head blight) on wheat.

Upcoming Events

January 8, 2002 - PAT New Agent Inservice, 105 Ag. Admin., OSU Campus

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

Recertification Schools

Dayton - Dayton Convention Center

Urban & Public Operators - December 13, 2001

Agriculture - December 14, 2001

Perrysburg - Holiday Inn French Quarters

Urban & Public Operators - January 16, 2002

Agriculture - January 17, 2002

Columbus - Columbus Convention Center

Urban & Public Operators - January 30, 2002

Agriculture - January 31, 2002