Vol 2 Issue 2 February 1997

PEP-TALK

OSU Pesticide Education Programs

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Included In This Issue...

http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~pested/

PAT Advisory Meeting

A PAT advisory meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25 1997 from 9am to noon at The Ohio Department of Agriculture. If agents have any issues that should be addressed during this meeting, please contact Joanne Kick-Raack or the agent representative to the PAT advisory meeting in your area. Representatives to the advisory committee are:

Steve Baertsche, John Barker, Steve Bartels, Charles Behnke, Debbie Brown, Chuck Darrah, Bob DeVeny, Jim Greve, Martin Hall, Tom Harrison, Ray Henning, Melinda Howells, Brian Peach, Steve Prochaska, Joe Rimelspach, Jeff Stachler, Dave Shetlar, Dean Slates, Joyce Smith, Jim Vaive, Ray Wells, Hal Willson, Bob Wulfhorst.

Combining Efforts

EPA & OSHA COMBINING EFFORTS

The EPA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have begun working together to identify and publicize causes of chemical accidents and develop recommendations for preventing similar accidents in the future. Under an agreement between the two agencies, EPA and OSHA will cooperate to investigate MAJOR chemical accidents and release causes. The two Agencies will also publish the results of these investigations in joint reports.

Information on the EPA/OSHA agreement on chemical investigations will be available on the WWW at:
http://www.epa.gov/swercepp/
(EPA Press Release, December 20, 1996)

Chemical & Label Update

The following information provides registration status of particular pesticides and should not be considered as pesticide recommendations by OSU Extension.

FIELD CROP

Balance (isoxaflutole) --Rhone Poulenc-- A new soil applied preplant/preemergence herbicide that will be introduced this year for usage on corn. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Basis Gold (nicosulfuron/rimsulfuron/atrazine)--DuPont--A new premix product that will be used this year on corn. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Bison (bromoxynil/MCPA)--Terra--This new premix herbicide will be available this year for usage on wheat. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Cynergy (cyanazine/atrazine)--Griffin--This new formulation will be available this year for usage on corn. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Forge 3G (tefluthrin)--Zeneca--Received EPA approval to use on sweet corn for corn rootworm control. It can be applied up to 30 days after seeding emergence. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Fulltime (acetochlor/atrazine)--Zeneca--A new formulation being introduced to control annual grasses and broadleaf weeds in field corn, production seed corn, silage corn and popcorn. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Glufosinate Ammonium--AgrEvo USA
Time-limited tolerances have been set for residues of the herbicide glufosinate ammonium in or on various raw agricultural commodities (RACs) derived from transgenic field corn and transgenic soybeans. AgrEvo USA Co. submitted a petition to EPA requesting the tolerances. This regulation became effective February 5, 1997. The tolerances expire and are revoked automatically without further action by EPA on July 13, 1999. (Federal Register, February 5, 1997)

Headline B+G (sethoxydimm/bentazon/aciflurofen)--BASF--A new postemergence combination that will be available this year for usage on corn. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Liberty-- (glufosinate-ammonium)--AgrEvo--This herbicide has received EPA approval for use on Liberty-Link corn hybrids as of January 17, 1997. (OSU Hort & Crop Science Dept. & Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Lightning 70 DF (imazethapyr/imazapyr)--American Cyanamid--A new premix that will be available this year for usage on IT/IR field corn. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Propiconazole-- This fungicide has received a federal time-limited tolerance for sorghum that expires October 31, 1998. (Federal Register, November 13, 1996)

Technical CGA- 269941(Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki strain M-200)--Ciba-Geigy--for control of lepidopterus insect pests of tree fruits, terrestrial small fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, herbs, spices, cranberries, alfalfa, corn, peanuts, cotton, and soybeans. (Federal Register, February 19, 1997)

Twister (fluazifop/fenoxaprop)--Zeneca--This new combination herbicide will be available this year for usage on soybeans. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

VEGETABLES

Rally (mycolobutanil)--Rohm & Haas--EPA established time limited residue tolerances on cucurbit vegetables at .3ppm. Expires 11-30-97. (Federal Register, Jan 9, 1997)

Technical CGA- 269941(Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki strain M-200)--Ciba-Geigy--for control of lepidopterus insect pests of tree fruits, terrestrial small fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, herbs, spices, cranberries, alfalfa, corn, peanuts, cotton, and soybeans. (Federal Register, February 19, 1997)

Zinc Phosphide --EPA established time limited residue tolerances for this rodenticide on potatoes, sugarbeet tops and roots. Expires 10-15-97. (Federal Register Jan 9, 1997)

FRUIT

Flowable Carbofuran-- FMC--Grapes and Strawberries
EPA is issuing a notice of receipt of request for amendment by FMC Corporation, the sole US registrant, to delete the use of the pesticide flowable carbofuran on grapes and strawberries. Unless the request is withdrawn, the Agency will approve these use deletions and they will become effective on May 14, 1997. FMC has waived the 180 days allowed under the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. (Federal Register: February 13, 1997)

TURF

Cool Power (MCPA/triclopyr/dicamba)--Riverdale--A new combination herbicide developed for usage on turf. An ester formulation. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Horsepower (MCPA/triclopyr/dicamba)--Riverdale--A new combination herbicide developed for usage on turf. An amine formulation.(Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Millennium (2,4-D/triclopyr/clopyralid)--Riverdale--A new combination herbicide developed for usage on turf. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

MISC.

2,4-D--Due to the high cost of re-registration the usage on drainage ditch banks will be removed from the label for the ethyl hexyl ester formulation (Federal Register, December 27, 1996)

Deadline (metaldehyde) -- Pace Intl.-- Added to their label the usage on tobacco. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Ridomil (mefonoxam)--Ciba--Usage on tobacco transplant production systems have been withdrawn from the label. It can only be used in the field on tobacco. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Ryanodine--As a result of the high cost of re-registration the manufacturer of this biological insecticide has asked EPA to voluntarily cancel the registration. If no one wishes to support the registration cancellation will occur on 7-21-97 (Federal Register, Jan. 22, 1997)

Sahara DG (imazapyr/diuron)--American cyanamid--A new prepack product developed for complete weed control in non crop areas. (Ag. Chem. News, February 15, 1997)

Availability of Reregistration Eligibility Decision Documents for Comment
EPA has announced the availability of the Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) documents for the active ingredients Alkyl Imidazolines, Amitraz, Amitrole, Ancymidol, Bronopol, Chlorhexidine diacetate, Chlorpropham, Coumaphos, Cryolite, Desmedipham, Dibromodicyanobutane, Dimethoxane, Hydroxyethyl octyl sulfide, Hydroxypropylmethanethiosulfonate, Methyloxazolidine, Mitin-FF, Norflurazon, O-benzyl-p-chlorophenol and salts, Prometryn, Propamocarb hydrochloride, Starlicide, Tetrachlorvinphos, and Trifluralin. This notice starts a 60-day public comment period. The REDs for the chemicals listed above are the Agency's formal regulatory assessments of the health and environmental data base of the subject chemicals and present the Agency's determination regarding which pesticidal uses are eligible for reregistration.

Please note that these REDs were finalized and signed prior to August 3, 1996. On that date, the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 ("FQPA") became effective, amending portions of both the pesticide law (FIFRA) and the food and drug law (FFDCA). These REDs don't address any issues raised by FQPA, and any tolerance-related statements in the RED did not take into account any changes in tolerance assessment procedures required under FQPA. To the extent that these REDs indicate that a change in any tolerance is necessary, that determination will be reassessed by the Agency under the standards set forth in FQPA before a proposed tolerance is issued. To the extent that the RED does not indicate that a change in the tolerance is necessary, that tolerance, too, will be reassessed in the future pursuant to the requirements of FQPA. Written comments on these decisions must be submitted by April 1, 1997. (Federal Register, January 31, 1997)

Requests to Voluntarily Cancel Certain Registrations
Unless a request is withdrawn by July 22, 1997, the following registrations will be canceled.
Ridomil 2E Fungicide
Pace Fungicide, Pace Turf Fungicide
Apron TM 70SD
Triumph 4E
Seven Bait MC
Gro Green Weed'n Feed 60
Cidex (several registrations)
Natur-Gro R-50
Superneem 4.5 Botanical Insecticide
(Federal Register, January 22, 1997)

High Sulfur Use In Calif.

CALIFORNIA'S PESTICIDE USE DATA SHOWS HIGH SULFUR USE
California's 1995 pesticide report was released several weeks ago. 211 million pounds of pesticide active ingredients have been documented as used in California. Of that amount, an interesting trend has occurred in pesticide use practices with regard to sulfur. "Small amounts of a toxic pesticide are sometimes replaced with a much larger volume of sulfur." (P & T Chem. News, January 22, 1997) Sulfur, a fungicide, is used by both commercial and organic farmers and it accounts for a third (69.8 million pounds) of all pesticides applied in California. (P & T Chem. News, January 22, 1997)

Electric Blanket Idea

ELECTRIC BLANKET BOILS PCBS FROM SOIL, MAY BE USED FOR PESTICIDES
Engineers have long been able to destroy polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other organic pollutants. The challenge has been how to separate them cost-effectively from the material they contaminate. Scientists now report having solved that problem for soil by cooking it with an intensely hot electric blanket to vaporize the pollutants.

The researchers' prototype blanket, is edged with electric wires and is partially folded back from a treated area. Operated at temperatures up to 925oC, it eventually brought the top 15 centimeters of soil to 200oC. A vacuum pulled the pollutant vapors that formed under the blanket into a flameless thermal oxidizer, which broke down the PCBs.

The Shell Oil Co. created a subsidiary, TerrTherm, to commercialize such blankets for the removal of dioxins, solvents, pesticides, and perhaps heavy metals such as mercury, cadmium, and lead. (Science News Vol. 150, Nov. 16, 1996)

WPS Notes

The EPA will not reduce the 12 hour REI for insecticidal soaps. Although these are considered to be 'soft' pesticides, the potential for eye irritation places these products in Toxicity category II. To be considered for a reduced REI, the pesticide must be in Toxicity category III or IV. Category II eye effects include reversible corneal opacity and eye irritiation. Category III has eye irritation only; IV has no eye irritation. (University of Georgia Pest Management Newsletter, November 1996)

Wood Preservatives & NCAMP

EPA ADDRESSES LATEST NCAMP CRITICISM OF WOOD PRESERVATIVES

These EPA questions and answers stem from a recent NCAMP "Poison Poles" Report on the Use of Wood Preservatives on Utility Poles and Availability of Alternatives.

1.) What is the criticism of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP) of EPA's current policy concerning the use of wood preservatives to treat utility poles?

NCAMP is critical of EPA's allowing the use of wood preservatives on wood utility poles. According to NCAMP, wood preservatives used to treat wood utility poles "contain dangerous chemicals, including dioxins, which harm human health and the environment."

2.) What chemicals are used to treat wood poles, and who may apply them?

The principal chemicals used to treat wood poles are pentachlorophenol (penta), creosote, and inorganic arsenicals. According to NCAMP, 43% of the poles are treated with penta, 42% with arsenics and 13% with creosote. Only specially trained and certified applicators, or persons under their supervision, may legally use these chemicals to treat utility poles.

3.) What is the current status of these pesticides?

All of the currently registered wood preservatives will be reassessed as part of EPA's ongoing reregistration program. (All pesticides first registered before November 1984 must undergo reregistration review.) EPA will complete its analyses and issue Reregistration Eligibility Decisions on the continued use of these pesticides.

4.) What was EPA's most recent regulatory decision concerning the use of these chemicals on poles, and what was the Agency's reasoning?

Both penta and creosote were the subjects of comprehensive reviews in the mid-1980s. In 1984 EPA issued a standard to limit contamination of one type of dioxin (hexachlorodibenzo (HxCDD)) in penta to 1 part per million (ppm).

The use of these chemicals on utility poles was not canceled because it was decided that the benefits exceed the risks of treating the wood. Not treating the wood with pesticides would result in more frequent replacement of poles.

5.) What is the Office of Pesticide Program's (OPP) position on the use of alternative materials, such as steel and concrete, in place of chemically-treated wood poles?

The question of whether poles made of alternative materials are preferable to chemically-treated wood poles goes beyond OPP's regulatory jurisdiction.

6.) How much wood preservatives are used each year in the United States?

EPA estimates total usage of wood preservative active ingredients at approximately 700 million pounds, accounting for a little over one-quarter of the 2.4 billion pounds of pesticide active ingredients (not including chlorine) used annually. (E-mail, John Ward, USEPA, February 13, 1997)

Glyphosate News

PAPER COMPANY AGREES TO MORATORIUM ON GLYPHOSATE

Following protests by environmental groups, the paper manufacturer Champion International agreed to stop spraying glyphosate on 1,000 acres of it's Vermont forest as long as the company can still use the product on test plots. The Vermont Forest Resources Advisory Council recommended the moratorium to which Champion agreed. Champion will continue to use aerial spraying to apply the herbicide on 100 acres of forest in order to show that the chemical is safe. The chemical is used as a growth inhibitor for hardwood trees so that soft-wood gets a better start.

Environmental groups, unconvinced of the safeness of the product, want the spraying of glyphosate banned due to possible water supply contamination. The final decision regarding the spraying of glyphosate lies in the hands of the state legislature. (P & T Chem. News., January 29, 1997)

Pesticide Labels on CD-ROM

EPA ISSUES REVISED PESTICIDE LABEL MANUAL AND MAKES ALL LABELS AVAILABLE ON CD-ROM DISK

EPA has issued a second edition of its "Label Review Manual." The manual reflects current EPA policy. The manual order number is PB 97-117667 and can be obtained by calling the National Technical Information Service at 703-487-4650; fax 703-321-8547. Electronic access to the manual can be obtained at the following two Internet addresses: gopher.epa.gov -- under rules and regulations -- and on the Internet at http://www.pestlaw.com. The 26 disk set contains images of the registered pesticide products which are indexed by company, product and date. Users can search by registration number, or partial number when the complete number is unknown. The basic cost of the disk set (PB-97-594040) is $388 in the United States; $776 outside the United States. Updates, which EPA will produce three times annually, are $84 each.
(E-mail, Howard Rosenberg, University of California, Berkeley, February, 20 1997)

EPA Law Information

INFORMATION ON EPA LAWS AFFECTING FARMERS

Major EPA Laws and Programs That Could Affect Farmers is now available on OECA's Enviro$ense. The Internet URL is http://es.inel.gov/oeca/aglaws/

Major EPA Laws and Programs That Could Affect Farmers provides information on 34 major EPA programs. Information is presented by law (e.g., Clean Water Act) and by agricultural practice (e.g., concentrated animal feeding operations.)

Some agricultural practices are potentially impacted by several laws and programs. The extent to which a particular EPA program affects a farmer depends on the farmer's agricultural practices and geographic location. Users can print the requirements through capabilities included within their Internet browser and personal computer. (Pesticide Notes, January-February 1997)

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EPA Fines Northrup King

In November 1996, Northrup King Co. agreed to pay a $165,200 fine to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for importing, producing, selling and distributing an unregistered pesticide genetically engineered corn containing Bacillus thurgiensis (Bt). This was EPA's first legal action involving a genetically engineered plant pesticide.

According to EPA, the company's activities violated the U.S. Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and included failing to file the required paperwork with EPA for importing the Bt corn, and producing the pesticide at eight unregistered facilities during 1994-95.

Northrup King, a Sandoz Seeds subsidiary based in Minnesota, maintains that they had been working with EPA to obtain registration for their Bt corn and expected approval last spring. However, in order to have as much seed as possible to sell to U.S. growers, the company shipped seed to Chile for winter production and brought the increased volumes back to the U.S. for packaging and sale. A company spokesperson stated that the federal process took longer than expected, and therefore Northrup King was in "technical violation" by letting its production get ahead of registration. The originally proposed fine of $208,500 was reduced by 20% because of what EPA officials called the company's "cooperation and good faith efforts to come into compliance."

Northrup King's Bt corn, developed in collaboration with Monsanto using its Yieldgard technology, was registered in August 1996, and the company has been selling seed to U.S. farmers since then for next season's plantings. According to reports, the company expected to sell out by the end of 1996, and is projecting 500,000 to one million acres planted with the company's seed by next spring. (Pesticide Notes, January-February 1997)

Reminder

Remember that the Trained Serviceman Regulation goes into effect on March 1, 1997. Single copies of the Trained Serviceman Guide can be ordered through the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Multiple copies of the guide will be available through OSU Extension Publications soon.

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