

## **PEP-Talk, February, 2010**

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### **OHIO ASKS FOR EMERGENCY EXEMPTION FOR BED BUG CONTROL**

Ohio Department of Agriculture has requested a public health exemption to use the insecticide propoxur to control bed bugs. The request is for propoxur to be used in residential single or multiple unit dwellings, apartments, hotels, motels, office buildings, modes of transportation and commercial industrial buildings.

This would be a Section 18 Emergency Exemption as propoxur does not currently have these sites on the label. If granted, the product could only be used in Ohio for these sites and only for a predetermined amount of time. EPA's decision is currently pending.

The exemption is being sought because of some control failures with other existing labeled insecticides, due in part to pyrethroid resistance in the bed bug population. The insecticide, a different chemical class than pyrethroids, would be applied as a crack and crevice or spot treatment with a 14-day retreatment restriction.

(Source: Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. EPA, [www.epa.gov/pesticides](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides))

## **EPA CANCELS BAYER PRODUCT IN RESPONSE TO COURT RULING**

EPA is intending to issue a cancellation order for spirotetramat, a new insecticide manufactured by Bayer CropScience. The product was approved by EPA in 2008 for use on many crops including apples, pears, peaches, oranges, tomatoes, grapes, strawberries, almonds, spinach and Christmas trees. The trade names of the product include Movento and Ultor.

However, in December a federal judge banned the insecticide after finding EPA failed to publish its registration decisions or properly seek public comment before approving the product for use. The lawsuit was brought by environmental groups who claim EPA did not adequately assess the honeybee risk from the active ingredient or give notice and opportunity for comment on the registration decision.

Bayer points out the ruling is not based on the safety or efficacy of the product. The company estimates they will lose over \$90 million from testing, registration and lost sales of spirotetramat.

The public comment period on the cancellation order for spirotetramat is being published on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/opprd001/factsheets/spirotetramat-canc-order.pdf>. EPA has indicated the cancellation order will not be published in the Federal Register because the product must be vacated by February 16, 2010 according to the federal court. Public comments must be submitted on or before February 8, 2010. The cancellation order will establish the disposal of existing stock and product already in the hands of wholesalers, retailers and users. (Sources: Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. EPA, [www.epa.gov/pesticides](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides); Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 38, No. 7)

## **MINNESOTA DOES IN-STATE REVIEW OF ATRAZINE**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have completed a multi-agency review of

atrazine. The review found current regulation for the herbicide protects human health and the environment. The review summary and conclusions have been posted in the state register and have a 60-day public comment period. The information is available at: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/chemicals/pesticides/atrazine/atrazinereview.aspx>

The Minnesota water monitoring data show atrazine levels have declined in groundwater in recent years and the detected levels in ground and surface water have not violated applicable water quality standards. To continue this trend, the report makes recommendations that include:

- Enhanced water resource monitoring efforts
- Encouragement for private well owners to test their water quality
- Promote agricultural best-management practices to minimize atrazine contamination
- Information to applicators about products containing atrazine and label requirements

(Source: Minnesota Department of Agriculture, News Release, Jan. 15, 2010)

### **WORKER RISK ASSESSMENT COMMENT PERIOD**

EPA has released a policy paper to update and strengthen risk assessments and include risks to agricultural workers and children of workers in agricultural fields. The assessment will also include risks from non-food uses of the products. The risk assessment techniques that were developed for the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) will be used for any pesticide risk assessment, even if it does not fall under FQPA. This would include:

- reporting potential risks for individuals who had not been explicitly considered, specifically workers age 12 – 17 and children taken into agricultural fields while their parents work
- considering cumulative effects that may occur from exposure to multiple pesticides with a common mechanism of toxicity,
- considering aggregate exposures to pesticides from multiple sources and
- using an additional safety/uncertainty factor to protect children.

The comment period ends on February 8, 2010. More information is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/worker-rsk-assmnt.html>

(Source: Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. EPA, [www.epa.gov/pesticides](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides))

### **NEW PESTICIDE PUBLICATIONS FOR CONSUMERS**

The National Pesticides Information Center (NPIC) has released new resources for consumers on picaridin, mouse control and fleas. The resources are available at: <http://npic.orst.edu> The center has new fact sheets and podcasts for consumers to learn about active ingredients and commonly asked pesticide-related questions.

NPIC provides objective, science-based information about pesticides and pesticide-related topics. NPIC serves as a source of factual, unbiased information for consumers on pesticide chemistry, toxicology and environmental fate. It's a joint effort between Oregon State University and EPA. In addition to the website, NPIC operates a toll-free telephone service to answer consumer questions about pesticides at (800) 858-7378.

(Source: Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. EPA, [www.epa.gov/pesticides](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides))

### **REPORT ON HUMAN EXPOSURE RELEASED**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released their annual report on human exposure to environmental chemicals. This is the fourth year the report has been done. The report looks at 212 chemicals, including 75 chemicals assessed this year for the first time.

Most people in the study had levels of the fire retardant polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in their system. Most study participants also showed levels of Bisphenol A (BPA) which is used in plastics such as beverage containers, plastic dinnerware and toys. The other industrial chemical found in most people in the study was perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) which are used in products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease and water. The study is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/>

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, News Release, November, 2009)

## **PESTICIDE CROP WATCH**

### **OHIO 24(c) FOR EMERALD ASH BORER CONTROL**

Two 24(c) special local needs have been determined for emerald ash borer control on trees in Ohio. The products are Imidacloprid 75 WSP T&O and Imidacloprid 2FL T&O, both manufactured by Albaugh. Applicator using the products must have the correct 24(c) label. The labels can be downloaded at <http://pested.osu.edu/24C.htm>

### **CROP GROUPING FOR GENERAL TOLERANCE REGULATIONS**

EPA is proposing to allow the establishment of tolerances for multiple related crops, based on data from a representative set of crops. Traditionally, tolerances are established for a specific pesticide/commodity combination. However, under EPA's crop grouping regulation a single tolerance may be established that applies to a group of related commodities. EPA expects these revisions will make lower risk pesticides more available for minor crops.

The comment period on this proposed revision is until March 8, 2010. More information on the proposal and specific crop groupings is available at:

<http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#documentDetail?R=0900006480a77911>

(Source: Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. EPA, [www.epa.gov/pesticides](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides))

### **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  
February 3, 2010

March 31, 2010

April 28, 2010

May 19, 2010

August 25, 2010

September 22, 2010

## COMMERCIAL APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION CONFERENCES

### Field Crop Conference

March 9, 2010 – Columbus Convention Center

### General Conference

February 17, 2010 – Sandusky, Kalahari Conference Center

March 3, 2010 – Akron, John S. Knight Center

March 9, 2010 – Columbus Convention Center

## WOOD-DESTROYING INSECT INSPECTION TRAINING

April 7, 2010 – Ohio Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg