

PEP-Talk, February, 2011

Pesticide Safety Education Program  
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Vol. 15, Issue 2

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#### CONTROVERSIAL LABEL LANGUAGE REVISION

EPA is in the process of revising label language that addresses drift. The first draft language said not to apply a pesticide “in a manner that results in spray [or dust] drift that could cause an adverse effect to people or any other non-target site.”

Industry and grower groups were concerned the “could cause” phrase in the statement would result in a confusion that all drift could cause adverse effects. The groups pointed out the FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act) authorizes the registration and use of pesticides in a manner that doesn't cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment while taking into account the costs and benefits of a pesticide's use.

EPA has now proposed that the label language to direct pesticide users to not apply “in a manner that results in spray [or dust] drift that HARMS people or any other non-target organisms or sites.”

(Sources: Pesticide & Chemical Policy, Vol. 39, No. 4; Chemically Speaking, University of Florida, January 2011.)

#### UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE OF CLOTHIANIDIN DOCUMENTS STIRS BEES' NEST

An EPA memo dated November 2, 2010, was leaked regarding registration of the insecticide clothianidin. The document regarding a submitted scientific study has been highlighted by beekeeping and pesticide activist groups as a reason for EPA to revoke the registration of the seed treatment.

The study was conducted on canola and the activists are stating that the study did not follow guidelines. The groups are demanding that EPA remove the conditional registration that has been granted while further studies are done.

A recently published survey of pesticides in North American apiaries from samples collected in 2007-2008 reports 98 different pesticides from 887 hive samples. Clothianidin was not among the pesticides reported in the survey. (Source: Western Farm Press, 12/9/2010; Chemically Speaking, University of Florida, January 2011)

#### FEBRUARY BEGINS NEW APPLICATOR CLASSES

The Pesticide Safety Education Program will again begin regular Pesticide Safety Training classes to help new applicators preparing for exams and to train unlicensed employees to meet trained serviceperson requirements. These classes will be held at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg.

The classes will also be a review of the Core material for commercial pesticide applicators preparing to take their exam. There will also be sessions for applicators preparing to take the turf (category 8), industrial vegetation (category 5), agriculture weed (category 2c) and ornamental weed (category 6c) exams.

Public agencies, school districts, companies and businesses who apply pesticides are required to have a licensed, commercial pesticide applicator. Employees who are not licensed are able to work under the supervision of the licensed applicator as a trained serviceperson. The trained serviceperson must receive training on pesticide safety before applying or handling pesticides. The training must be noted and recorded in the employee's personnel file.

The classes will be held on: February 23, March 30, April 20, May 28, August 24 and September 28. For more information, visit the Pesticide Safety Education Program website at: <http://pested.osu.edu> or call (614) 292-4070.

#### LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST EPA OVER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

A 411-page lawsuit has been filed by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Pesticide Action Network North America against EPA for failing to consult with federal wildlife agencies regarding the impacts of pesticides on endangered and threatened species. The lawsuit filed by these groups seeks protection for 214 endangered and threatened species in the U.S.

(Source: Center for Biological Diversity media release, 1/20/2011)

#### PESTICIDE CROP WATCH INSECTICIDES

Sulfuryl fluoride – EPA is beginning a phased-down withdrawal of this pesticide which is used in food storage and processing facilities to control insect pests in stored grains, dried fruits, tree nuts and other items. Because sulfuryl fluoride breaks down into fluoride, EPA has concluded that when combined with other fluoride exposure pathways, including drinking water and toothpaste, the tolerance level is exceeded.

EPA is proposing to phase out sulfuryl fluoride over a three-year period as it's a replacement for several post-harvest uses of methyl bromide, which was recognized as a stratospheric ozone-depleting pesticide and no longer available. Dow AgroSciences, manufacturer of sulfuryl fluoride, opposes the phase-out pointing out that the pesticide contributes a tiny fraction of overall fluoride exposure, especially when compared to public and private water systems. There is a comment period until April 11, 2011. More information is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/sulfuryl-fluoride/> (Sources: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs; Greenbook.net, 1/14/2011)

Methomyl – EPA has cancelled use of this insecticide on grapes on December 8, 2010. Existing stocks of registered pesticide products that were packaged, labeled and released for shipment prior to this effective date can be sold and distributed. End users are able to use registered pesticide products with the deleted uses until stocks are exhausted. (Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

More information about these events at: <http://pested.osu.edu>.

#### OHIO COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION CONFERENCES (General and Field Crops Combined)

5 hours of recertification credit in one day – covers ALL commercial categories

February 16, 2011 – Dayton Convention Center

March 2, 2011 – Akron, John S. Knight Center

March 9, 2011 – Columbus Convention Center

#### 2011 PESTICIDE SAFETY TRAINING (NEW APPLICATORS)

All classes taught at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg

Categories covered: Core (commercial & private), Commercial 8, 5, 6c, 2c

February 23, 2011

March 30, 2011

April 20, 2011

May 18, 2011

August 24, 2011

September 28, 2011

#### WOOD-DESTROYING INSECT INSPECTION TRAINING

All classes taught at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg

Mandatory training for Commercial Category 12

March 31, 2011

September 14, 2011

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