

PEP-Talk, January, 2009

Pesticide Education Program
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2,4-D BAN OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

EPA is seeking public comments on a petition to revoke all tolerances and cancel all registrations for the pesticide 2,4-D. The petition was submitted by the environmental group Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). The NRDC claims in their petition that EPA cannot make a finding that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm from dietary residues of 2,4-D. The petition also states that EPA also did not consider the full spectrum of potential human health effects associated with the pesticide.

Public comments must be submitted by February 23, 2009.

Information on submitting comments is available

at: <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2008/December/Day-24/p30527.htm>. The docket information is available

at: <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0877>

Registered in the U.S. since 1948, 2,4-D is an herbicide in the phenoxy or phenoxyacetic acid family that is used post-emergence for selective control of broadleaf weeds. 2,4-D is registered for use on a variety of food/feed sites including field, fruit, and vegetable crops. 2,4-D is also registered for use on turf, lawns, rights-of-way, aquatic sites, forestry applications, and is used as a plant growth regulator in citrus. Residents and professional applicators may use 2,4-D on home lawns. 2,4-D has low acute toxicity and a review released by EPA in 2004 concluded that none of the more recent epidemiological studies definitively linked human cancer cases to 2,4-D. A fact sheet with the history of 2,4-D regulation and overview of human health assessments is available at: http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDS/factsheets/24d_fs.htm

CARBOFURON CANCELLATION PROCESS IGNITES CONTROVERSY

USDA has objected to the process EPA is using to stop use of carbofuran. EPA has issued a federal notice to revoke tolerances for carbofuran before completing the cancellation process which could potentially put growers to risk, according to USDA. FMC, the manufacturer of carbofuran, has said that EPA is bypassing the formal cancellation process by proposing to ban carbofuran residues on food crops without actually banning the pesticide itself. USDA says the proposed residue ban sets an undesirable precedent in revoking tolerances before canceling a pesticide. USDA had previously urged against canceling carbofuran, citing its importance as a last-resort pesticide for farmers.

Carbofuran is a N-methyl carbamate insecticide and nematicide registered to control pests in soil and on leaves in a variety of field, fruit and vegetable crops. One year ago, EPA issued a notice of intent to cancel (NOIC) carbofuran. The notice was submitted to a scientific advisory panel and USDA. EPA has determined the carbofuran has dietary, worker and ecological risks that are of concern. The notice of intent to cancel has not been issued in the federal register. A federal register notice to revoke all tolerances carbofuran was issued in July, 2008. EPA is currently completing a review of comments received from this notice and plans to issue a cancellation for carbofuran registrations.

These objections were voiced this fall. In December, EPA issued a federal register notice of request to voluntarily cancel carbofuran pesticide registrations from FMC for all crops except for corn, potatoes, pumpkins and sunflowers.

EPA's website on carbofuran is available at:http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/carbofuran/carbofuran_noic.htm

(Source: Chemically Speaking, University of Florida Extension, November/December 2008 issue, <http://www.pested.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletters/november2008/index.htm>)

WEBSITE FOR VETERINARIANS TO REPORT PET INCIDENTS

The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) has developed a website for veterinarians to report pesticide incidents involving animals. The website can only be accessed by veterinarians and accessed through the American Veterinary Medical Association site at <http://www.avma.org>. The data from the reports will be evaluated by EPA.

NEW EPA FUMIGATION RESTRICTIONS RAISE CONCERNS

In July, EPA proposed mitigation measures for five fumigants – methyl bromide, chloropicrin, dazomet, metam sodium, and metam potassium used on several crops including potatoes, tomatoes, strawberries, carrots and peppers. As part of the reregistration process, EPA plans to require buffer zones of up to 300 feet around treated fields, which could be reduced if applicators utilize high barrier tarps and other methods to reduce fumigant emissions. The proposal also includes a site-specific written fumigant management plan, new posting requirements, training requirements and limits on applications methods, practices and rates.

The comment period for the proposal ended October 30. Several agricultural interests, state agricultural departments and state foresters see the proposed requirements as overly strict and unnecessary to protect workers and the public from emissions. Many stakeholders see the restrictions forcing some growers out of

business and undermine efforts to regenerate forests.
(Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 37, No. 1)

QUEBEC PESTICIDE BAN CHALLENGED

A U.S. company has legally challenged Quebec's ban of cosmetic pesticide use under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Dow Agrosiences LLC is seeking a \$2 million settlement over Quebec's ban of the company's weed killer 2,4-D under Chapter 11 of NAFTA which provides investor protection from certain government actions. Dow notes that Health Canada, a governmental agency, concluded that 2,4-D can be used safely according to label directions for lawn, turf and agricultural applications. More information is available at: http://pubs.acs.org/cen/email/html/cen_86_i44_8644notw3.html
(Source: Chemical & Engineering News, Vol. 86, No. 44)

OREGON PESTICIDE MONITORING THREATENED BY BUDGET

The 2009 budget proposed by Oregon's governor would stop funding for the pesticide monitoring program. The program has only been in operation for one year and required all non-household pesticide users to report their use through an online computer system. The monitoring program had been approved by the legislature eight years prior to implementation, but had been waiting on funding to become a reality. The system cost \$1 million over the two years.
(Source: Pesticide and Toxic Chemical News, Vol., 37, No. 6)

DAYTON RECERTIFICATION CONFERENCE JANUARY 21

The General Conference for Ohio Commercial Pesticide Applicators will be January 21, 2009 at the Dayton Convention Center. Registration information is available at <http://pested.osu.edu>. The conference is for commercial applicators who need recertification. All categories will be covered EXCEPT in agronomic pest (category 2a) and agriculture weed (category 2c). Extensive training will be offered in core, turf (category 8), ornamentals (category 6a), industrial vegetation (category 5), general pest (category 10a) and others.

TRAINED SERVICEPERSON AND NEW APPLICATOR TRAINING FOR COMMERCIAL APPLICATORS

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 Pesticide Education Program will begin offering classes on a regular basis to train the unlicensed employees to meet the 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) and ornamental weed (category 6c) exams.

The classes will be held on: February 4, March 25, April 28, May 20, August 26 and September 30. For more information, visit the Pesticide Education Program website at: <http://pested.osu.edu> or call (614) 292-4070.

PESTICIDE CROP WATCH

INSECTICIDES

EPA has cancelled the use of malathion in the following areas/crops: Dairies/cheese processing plant equipment (food contact), eating establishments, food processing plants (excluding stored grain facilities), golf course turf, greenhouse – empty, indoor hard surfaces, indoor premises, residential dust formulations, residential lawns (broadcast), residential pressurized can formulations, sewage systems, storage/warehouse premises (excluding stored grain facilities), commercial transportation facilities – feed/food – empty, commercial/institutional/industrial premises/equipment (indoor and outdoor). These are not the last malathion products registered for use in the United States. The cancellations were effective December 3, 2008.

More information

at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/malathion/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

COMMERCIAL APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION CONFERENCES

General Conferences

January 21, 2009 – Dayton Convention Center

February 10, 2009 – Sandusky, Kalahari Conference Center

February 25, 2009 – Columbus Convention Center

March 11, 2009 – Akron, John S. Knight Center

Field Crop Conferences

February 25, 2009 – Columbus Convention Center

TRAINED SERVICEPERSON AND NEW APPLICATOR COMMERCIAL SCHOOLS

February 4, 2009

March 25, 2009

April 28, 2009

May 20, 2009

August 26, 2009

September 30, 2009

Taught at Ohio Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg

WOOD-DESTROYING INSECT INSPECTION

Recertification credit also available in Core, 10b and 12.

April 1, 2009

September 16, 2009

Taught at Ohio Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg

OSU EXTENSION EDUCATOR INSERVICE

December 9 and 10, 2009

OSU Campus, Columbus

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