

PEP-TALK

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OHIO CITIZEN ACTION GROUP DEMONSTRATION

On Tuesday, June 24th, several young people -- fewer than one dozen in all -- claiming to be volunteers of Ohio Citizen Action, demonstrated at Columbus City Hall alleging the presence of atrazine in Columbus city drinking water.

The 'demonstration' followed an announcement that OCA would be marching on City Hall and several neighborhood solicitations seeking donations to support the organization would be taking place. 'Volunteers' also solicited letters to Columbus Mayor Greg Lashutka asking the Mayor to call upon USEPA to ban atrazine. (OPARR News Flash, June 30, 1997)

WIDESPREAD GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION FROM LEGAL PESTICIDE USE

A study released by the North Carolina Pesticide Board shows widespread pesticide contamination in that state's groundwater. Over 27% of the wells sampled in pesticide use areas were contaminated by legal pesticides applied routinely according to directions on the product labels.

The report states that a total of 36 chemicals were found in the wells. Of those, 31 were pesticides or pesticide breakdown products. The Agricultural Resource Center (ARC), claims that many of the pesticides found may cause cancer, birth defects, genetic damage or harm to the immune and endocrine systems.

The results of the final report may actually understate the extent of the problem in North Carolina since the most vulnerable sites were excluded from the study. The study was limited to identifying contamination from pesticides used in legal applications, and excluded sites used as pesticide mixing and loading areas and sites of known accidents, spills or container disposal.

To sample groundwater in pesticide use areas, the state installed 100 monitoring wells within 300 feet of agricultural fields, highway right-of-ways, mosquito abatement areas, golf courses and other non-crop land use areas in cooperation with landowners. Of the 97 that were successfully sampled, approximately 26% were contaminated. As a result of the study, some well owners have been advised not to drink from their wells.

The study was conducted for the NC Pesticide Board by an interagency work group of the NC Department of

Agriculture and the NC Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources and cost approximately \$1.1 million. The Pesticide Board is a seven-member body appointed by the Governor with primary regulatory and enforcement authority over pesticides in the state. Copies of the report are available. (Pesticide Notes, May-June 1997)

PESTICIDE DRIFT SURVEY RESULTS

The American Association of Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) took an informational survey of state regulators to find the importance of the problems associated with drift. Here are some of the results:

- Most complaints came from rural residents.
 - About 3/4 of the complaints involved agricultural pesticides drifting onto other properties.
 - Many complaints were also generated by pesticides applied to lawns, rights-of-way, and trees.
 - Reported injuries typically included agricultural crops, lawns, and trees.
 - There were 205 of the 1799 reported complaints that involved human exposure.
 - Forty-one pesticides were identified in the survey.
 - The most commonly reported pesticides were clomazone, paraquat, propanil, glyphosate, dicamba, atrazine, picloram, carbaryl, tribufos, and 2,4-D.
 - The applicator was reported to be responsible in 80% of the incidents where injury was noted.
 - Most of the reports were related to commercial applications.
 - Ground application accounted for 2/3 of the drift complaints.
- (Pesticide Drift Enforcement Survey 1996, AAPCO via University of Georgia)

EPA DEFINES 28 MAJOR USE CROPS

Under the FQPA, the definition of a minor crop has changed. A "minor crop" is now one that is grown on less than 300,000 total acres in the U.S. The following 28 crops are grown on more than 300,000 acres, and thus will be classified by EPA as major crops. Everything else is presumably a minor crop. Almonds, Apples, Barley, Canola, Corn (all), Cotton, Cottonseed, Dry beans, Grapes, Hay, Oats, Oranges, Peanuts, Pecans, Popcorn, Potatoes, Rice, Rye, Snap beans, Sod, Sorghum, Soybeans, Sugarbeet, Sugarcane, Sunflower, Tobacco, Tomatoes, Wheat.

In the FQPA, there are incentives for manufacturers to develop and maintain pesticide registrations on minor crops. However, under FQPA, the definition of "minor use" was also expanded. It now includes cases where there is insufficient revenue or economic incentive for a manufacturer to develop or keep a pesticide use, but that the pesticide is: 1) the only effective alternative, 2) the safest alternative, 3) important for IPM.

Under this new definition, there could be a minor use even on one of the major crops listed above. Such pesticides would qualify for EPA's minor use incentive program. (Pesticide Notes, MSU via Kansas Pesticide Newsletter, July 16, 1997)

DENIAL OF SECTION 18 BASED ON FQPA STANDARDS

EPA has denied a request from six states to use carbofuran (Furadan 4F) on cotton due to the Agency's inability to reach a conclusion of "a reasonable certainty of no harm" resulting from the use, as required by the FQPA.

Analysis required by the FQPA showed that carbofuran posed a dietary risk to children.

In analyzing this product, EPA invited the registrant, FMC Corp., to perform a Monte Carlo risk assessment which would provide more accurate and refined exposure data related to residues of carbofuran. Concurrently, EPA assessed the risk posed by possible exposure to residues resulting from contamination of surface water and groundwater. The margin of safety was insufficient to ensure that children were adequately protected.

In EPA's assessment, they utilized the most favorable exposure estimates that it considers to be scientifically defensible. The Agency did not rely on conservative assumptions of exposure which may overestimate aggregate exposure, and EPA accepted assumptions presented in FMC Corporation's analysis without having the time to perform scientific verification of those claims. EPA also performed its final risk assessment using the assumption that the registrant would eliminate several currently registered uses of carbofuran in order to lower the overall aggregate exposure to residues of carbofuran.

Despite the high degree of refinement to EPA's risk assessment, EPA has concluded that the potential for acute dietary risk (including drinking water) is unacceptable for infants and children under 12 years of age. Therefore, with an analysis constrained by time and resource limitations inherent to an expedited section 18 review, EPA was unable to make a determination of "a reasonable certainty of no harm" and thus denied the section 18 requests. (Decision Synopsis, June 26, 1997)

ENDOCRINE DISRUPTION STUDY RETRACTED

"In the July 25 issue of Science, John McLachlan [of Tulane University] will retract his laboratory's well-publicized study that found mixtures of weak estrogens could be significantly more powerful when combined than when tested individually." (P & T News, July 23, 1997)

The retraction will put an end to the worldwide controversy that was generated after the study was published. Retraction of the study will take place because no laboratory, including Tulane, can reproduce the results of the study. Many universities tried to reproduce the study but were unsuccessful. If the results could have been replicated, "EPA could have dramatically reduced tolerances and legal pesticide residues." (P & T News, July 23, 1997)

The author of the study "felt it important to publish a formal retraction because 'a lot of people have given this study a lot of accord in the public policy debate'" (P & T News, July 23, 1997).

EPA REPORTS ON TRIBUTYL TIN BOAT-BOTTOM PAINT

EPA sent a report to Congress on May 30, detailing the status of environmental monitoring for tributyltin (TBT). TBT has been shown to cause reproductive and other adverse effects to shellfish and other non-target aquatic organisms at very low levels. Both EPA and Navy data document that TBT levels in the water column are dropping. Despite this decline, EPA concluded that levels are still too high.

The reduction of TBT concentrations in domestic waters is due to restrictions on the use of anti-fouling paints in the United States. Use is prohibited on non-aluminum hulls and vessels less than 82 feet in length. There is a limit on

the release rate of TBT from paint. TBT may only be applied by persons specifically trained and certified (or by persons under their direct supervision). All TBT paint waste must be disposed in sanitary landfills and not in the water. The Navy no longer uses TBT antifouling paints.

The continued hazard TBT poses is tied to remaining domestic uses, and to the use of TBT on ocean-going vessels that are painted overseas and that travel to American ports. EPA has determined that additional restrictions are needed to reduce levels in water. In the May '97 report, the agency suggested to Congress that the manufacture and use of TBT anti-fouling paints be phased out in this country, to be replaced by safer alternatives. Some alternatives are currently available and others are in development. EPA is cooperating with the International Maritime Organization on a proposal for a global TBT phase-out, and is refining its TBT risk assessment for use in pursuing appropriate action under FIFRA. (USEPA Press Release and OPP Weekly Report, June 20, 1997)

METHYL PARATHION NEWS

Chicago Area Cleanup

USEPA Region 5 began cleanup of the first Chicago-area home contaminated by the illegal spraying of methyl parathion on July 8. EPA discovered that the pesticide was illegally sprayed in hundreds of homes for control of pest problems. Chicago is the latest city to be included in a series of incidents where methyl parathion has been used illegally indoors. (Media Release, July 1, 1997)

Ruling in Mississippi

The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi handed down the longest-ever federal prison sentence for an "exclusively environmental" crime. One man was sentenced for six years and six months and the other for five years and three months for the conviction of illegally spraying methyl parathion indoors and illegal distribution of the pesticide. EPA estimated that cleanup costs will exceed \$70 million. The cleanup will primarily be paid for by the federal Superfund trust fund. (P & T News, July 9, 1997)

EPA Crackdown on Urban Misuse

"EPA has revised its Urban and Residential Pesticide Control and Enforcement program to crack down on illegal indoor use of methyl parathion" (P & T News, July 2, 1997). The program is designed to identify misuse of agricultural product in urban and residential settings by certified or uncertified applicators. Focus will be on residential communities like low-income areas that are vulnerable to "bootleg pesticides" and on possible distribution sites like flea markets or tail gate sales. (P & T News, July 2, 1997)

CHEMICAL & LABEL UPDATE

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

FIELD CROPS

Dimilin (diflubenzuron)--Uniroyal-- Added to their label a yield enhancement statement when used on soybeans. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

Dyfonate (fonofos)--Zeneca--Due to the high cost of re-registration the company has decided to no longer produce this soil insecticide. Registration will be maintained for the next 3-4 years to use up existing stocks. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

Permit (halosulfuron-methyl)--Monsanto-- Added to their label the usage on fallow ground. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

Raxil-Thiram F (tebuconazole / thiram)--Gustafson--Added to their label the control of Pythium damp-off, early season Rhizoctonia root rot as well as early season suppression of wheat leaf rust in wheat, barley leaf rust in barley and crown rust in oats. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

Treflan (trifluralin)--DowElanco--Due to the high cost of re-registration this company has requested from EPA to delete from their labels by December 8, 1997 the usage on forage legumes. (Federal Register, July 11, 1997)

FRUIT

Abound (azoxystrobin)--Zeneca Ag Products-- EPA has established tolerances for residues of this fungicide in or on the raw agricultural commodities bananas, grapes, peaches, peanuts, pecans, and tomatoes, and the processed foods peanut oil and tomato paste. Azoxystrobin has been processed as a reduced risk pesticide. (Federal Register, July 9, 1997)

Kelthane 50 WSP (dicofol)--Rohm & Haas--This new formulation in water soluble bags has been introduced for usage on apples, pears, cucurbits, grapes and strawberries. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

Myclobutanil--EPA has established a time-limited tolerance in or on peppers (bell and non-bell), peppermint and spearmint. This action is in response to EPA's granting of an emergency exemption of the pesticide on peppers in California and peppermint and spearmint in Idaho and Washington. (Federal Register, July 9, 1997)
Rally -- Rohm + Haas

Ronalin (Vinclozolin) --BASF--BASF has requested that EPA revoke the tolerances for prunes, plums, tomatoes, grapes (excluding grapes grown for wine production), raisins, dried prunes and grape pomace. (Federal Register, July 18, 1997)

Tebufenozide-- A time-limited tolerance has been set for this insecticide in or on apples, apple pomace, cottonseed, cottonseed meal, oil and hulls, cotton gin byproducts; milk; meat, meat fat, and meat by-products of cattle, sheep, and goats; and horse meat in connection with EPA's granting of emergency exemptions under section 18 authorizing use of tebufenozide on apples in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, Michigan and New York. (Federal Register, July 2, 1997)
Confirm - Rohm + Haas

TURF AND ORNAMENTAL

1-(3-chlorophthalimido)cyclohexanecarboxamide -- Am. Cyanamid Co.--Ohio was one of 32 states to receive an experimental use permit for this growth regulator to be used on hybrid tea roses to evaluate its ability to increase stem production and quality. The permit is effective from June 11, 1997 to June 11, 1999. (Federal Register, July 7, 1997)

Bayleton 50 --Bayer-- Turf and ornamental fungicide is now available in water soluble packets. (Bayer News Release, June 25, 1997)

Daconil ZN (chlorothalonil)--ISK Biosciences--This product is now labeled to control blue green algae in turf areas. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

Mach 2 (halofenozide)--Roh Mid-- This is a new turf insecticide that was developed as a joint venture between Rohm & Haas and Cyanamid. It is formulated as a 2 SC and a 1.5% granule and registered on turf to control grubs and other soil borne pests. The granule may be used on all turf sites including home lawns, golf courses and

industrial sites. The liquid may be used on golf courses and commercial landscapes. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

Ronalin (Vinclozolin) --BASF-- BASF has deleted all residential uses, as well as turf in parks, school grounds and recreational areas. (Federal Register, July 18, 1997)

Surrender (acephate)--Micro Flo-- A new formulation being introduced to control fire ants and other insects in ornamental plants. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

VEGETABLE

Capture (bifenthrin)--FMC--EPA granted time-limited tolerances on broccoli and cauliflower. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

Curate - Dupont
Cymoxanil-- A time-limited tolerance in or on tomatoes has been established. This action is in response to EPA's granting of an emergency exemption under section 18 authorizing use of the pesticide on tomatoes in Florida, Maryland, and New Jersey. (Federal Register, July 25, 1997)

Acrobat - M. Charnick
Dimethomorph--A time-limited tolerances in or on tomatoes, tomato puree, and tomato paste has been established. This action is in response to EPA's granting of emergency exemptions authorizing use of the pesticide on tomatoes. (Federal Register, July 25, 1997)

Dual (metolachlor)--Novartis--EPA established a time-limited residue tolerances on spinach, tomatoes, tomato paste and tomato puree. (Federal Register, July 18, 1997)

Reflex - Zeneca
Fomesafen--EPA established a time-limited tolerance for residues of this chemical in or on snap beans . The tolerance will expire and is revoked on June 30, 1998. (Federal Register, July 9, 1997)

Larvin-- (thiodicarb)--Rhone-Poulenc-- A possibility exists that the EPA will not be able to re-establish a time-limited tolerance, which expires on August 15, 1997, for residues of this insecticide for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and leafy vegetables because the EPA determined that it must evaluate thiodicarb in conjunction with methomyl. If thiodicarb is used on broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, or leafy vegetables before the tolerance expires on August 15, 1997, and residues are below the level of the tolerance that was in effect at the time of application, crops containing thiodicarb residues may lawfully be sold for food and/or animal feed purposes. The Agency hopes to complete this assessment in 1998. (John Ward, USEPA, Q & A document, July 23, 1997)

Monitor 4 (Methamidophos)-- Bayer Corp. and Valent USA--EPA is issuing a notice of receipt of request for amendment to terminate the use of this insecticide on broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, and sugar beets, and that section 24c registrations labeled for melons, cucumbers, lettuce, alfalfa, bermuda grass, peppers, clover, and eggplant be canceled, leaving tomatoes as the only remaining food use with methamidophos 24c registrations. (Federal Register, July 2, 1997)

Ridomil Gold Bravo (mefenoxam/chlorothalonil)--Novartis-- Added to their label the usage on brussel sprouts. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

Ronalin (Vinclozolin) --BASF--EPA has established a time-limited tolerance for residues of this pesticide and its metabolites in or on succulent beans. The tolerance will expire and is revoked on October 1, 1999. (Federal Register, July 18, 1997)

Blazer - BASF
Sodium Salt of Acifluorfen--A time-limited tolerances for the combined residues of this herbicide and its metabolites in or on lima beans, cowpeas, and southern peas has been established . This action is in response to EPA's granting of an emergency exemption under section 18 in Tennessee. (Federal Register, July 25, 1997)

Stryker (tralomethrin)--Agr Evo--This is the formulation that will be available for usage on broccoli and lettuce. It is effective on beet armyworm, loopers, diamondback moth, imported cabbageworms and for the suppression of aphids. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

MISCELLANEOUS

Prometryne 4L (prometryn)--Platte Chemical--Added to their label the usage on dill. (Ag Chem News, July 15, 1997)

Sevin (carbaryl)--Rhone Poulenc--Due to the high cost of re-registration the company has requested to delete the usages on avocados, grasses grown for seed, maple trees for sap and oyster beds from their label. (Federal Register, July 11, 1997)

Tempo 2, Tempo 20 WP, Temp 20 Power Pac--Bayer--The company received approval to combine the lawn care and the pest control label on these insecticides. (Bayer News Release, June 25, 1997)

PSST...

Broccoli is being grown no-till in soybean stubble under a system investigated by Aref A. Abdul-Baki of USDA. Because broccoli requires high organic matter and high nitrogen, this system could be very useful. Some growers report cutting pesticide use by ½. For more information contact Abdul-Baki at 301-504-5057. (Georgia Pest Man. Newsletter, April 1997)

Camille Roush-Kopczewski
Editor, Extension Associate
Pesticide Applicator Training
E-mail: roush-kopczewski.16@osu.edu

Joanne Kick-Raack
Coordinator
Pesticide Applicator Training
E-mail: kick-raack.1@osu.edu

Pesticide Applicator Training Office
Rm. 249 Howlett Hall
2001 Fyffe Ct.
Columbus, OH 43210-1096
Phone: (614)292-4070
Fax:(614)292-3505

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