

## **PEP-Talk, June, 2010**

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### **EPA BEGINS COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED NPDES PERMITS**

EPA has made the draft permit for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) available for comment. The comments must be submitted by July 19, 2010. The permit requirement is in response to a federal court decision that pesticide applications on or near water is considered pollution and must require a NPDES permit. EPA has determined the permits will be required for:

- Mosquito and other flying insect pest control
- Aquatic weed and algae control
- Aquatic nuisance animal control
- Forest canopy pest control

In their news announcement, EPA states the new permit requirement would decrease the amount of pesticides discharged to the nation's waters and protect human health and the environment. EPA says the proposed permit would require all operators to reduce

pesticide discharges by using the lowest effective amount of pesticide, prevent leaks and spills, calibrate equipment and monitor for and report adverse incidents. The permit would also require operators who exceed an annual treatment area threshold to utilize integrated pest management practices.

Some agriculture groups are concerned that the permit does not specifically exempt agricultural applications which could mean farmers could be vulnerable to lawsuits and litigation.

The draft permit and information about sending comments is available

at: [http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program\\_id=410](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=410)

(Sources: U.S. EPA News Release, June 2, 2010; University of Illinois Extension Illinois Pesticide Review, May/June 2010; CropLife America News Release, June 8, 2010).

### **HAND SPRAYER CALIBRATION STEPS WORKSHEET**

Kansas State University Research and Extension just published a worksheet designed to help applicators calibrate hand sprayers. The worksheet, authored by agriculture engineer Robert Wolf, also contains information on converting nozzles on the sprayer wand to include drift-reducing nozzles. The worksheet is available at: <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/ageng2/mf2915.pdf>

### **STUDY MAKES ASSERTION THAT ORGANOPHOSPHATE EXPOSURE MAY CONTRIBUTE TO ADHD**

A study, recently published in the June, 2010, edition of the journal, "Pediatrics," concludes that organophosphate exposure in foods may contribute to Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) prevalence. The authors recommend more studies to establish whether this is a cause/effect relationship.

The data used for this study was taken from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey that was conducted from 2000-2004. The pesticide exposure was determined from urine samples taken from children participating in the study. The study concluded in 2004 which was the same period that EPA began phasing out organophosphate uses. Since that time, 17 organophosphates have

been cancelled and 58 organophosphates uses on foods, such as the ones noted in the study, have been cancelled or are being phased out.

The North American Blueberry Council released a statement that the study was an observational study that only looked for relationships in one snapshot of time. The council considers that research for cause-and-effect relationship must be conducted over a number of years and consider relevant factors like diet and medical records review. [Click here for study.](#)

(Sources: Pediatrics, published online May 17, 2010, DOI: 10/1542/peds.2009-3058; U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs; Ohio Fruit ICM News, Vol. 14, Issue 9)

### **APPLICATION LIMITATIONS IN NORTHWEST CAUSE CONTROVERSY**

EPA has announced additional limitation on the use of three N-methyl carbamate pesticides – carbaryl, carbofuran and methomyl used in California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The limitations were based on recommendations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to protect endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead. EPA has added buffer zones for applications as well as limitations based on wind speed, soil moisture and weather conditions. A fish mortality incident report is also required.

The manufacturers affected by this change sent a letter to EPA on May 7, 2010, that the science behind the proposed restrictions is lacking and there has not been sufficient opportunity for stakeholder involvement in developing the restrictions. The companies express concern that establishing this as precedent could affect other products in the future.

The NMFS based their recommendations on their April 2009 biological report that was done in response to a court case settled in July 2008. The lawsuit charged that NMFS failed to respond to EPA requests for consultation regarding pesticide applications.

According to program updates, EPA will request the manufacturers voluntarily adopt the new use limitations which will be enforceable once pesticide labels are modified to refer to the Endangered

Species Protection Bulletins. EPA has stated that if manufacturers decline this request, they will pursue regulatory action to impose the limitations.

(Sources: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 38, No. 26; EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Update, Weed of May 10-14, 2010)

### **PESTICIDE CONTAINER AND CONTAINMENT LABELING EXTENSION**

EPA has extended the due date for container label changes under the pesticide container and containment rule changes. The original date for label changes was August 16, 2010. There will now be a four-month extension given for label compliance. Registrants will have until December 16, 2010 for changes. More information is available at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-14403.htm> (Source: U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs)

### **BIOTECH PLUM REGISTERED AS PESTICIDE**

The genetically engineered C5 HoneySweet Plum, developed by USDA, has been registered by EPA as a pesticide product. The plum contains a gene that helps the plant create resistance to the plum pox virus. Since the gene is purposely transferred to uninfected plants to make them resistant to the virus, EPA says it requires pesticide registration because it is a substance that claims to have pesticidal qualities to mitigate a pest. More information is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/chemical/pesticide-registrations/plum-pox-protein.html>

(Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 38, No. 25 and EPA Office of Pesticide Programs)

### **WINTER COMMERCIAL RECERTIFICATION CONFERENCES ANNOUNCED**

The Ohio Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Conferences have been scheduled. This year the field crops conference has been combined with the general conferences. ALL commercial categories will be offered at each location. The dates and locations are:

January 11, 2011 – Sandusky, Kalahari Conference Center

February 16, 2011 – Dayton Convention Center

March 2, 2011 – Akron, John S. Knight Center  
March 9, 2011 – Columbus Convention Center

The cost will be \$75 for the conference which is a decrease from last year to help applicators in small businesses and public agencies maintain their license. Registration information will be posted October 1 on the Pesticide Safety Education Program website at <http://pested.osu.edu> Mailing will go to licensed applicators in early December.

### **PESTICIDE CROP WATCH**

Endosulfan – EPA has started the process to end all uses of endosulfan. This organochlorine insecticide is used on vegetables, fruits and cottons. EPA has concluded that endosulfan poses unacceptable risks to agricultural workers and wildlife, and can persist in the environment. More information is at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/endosulfan/endosulfan-cancl-fs.html>

### **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  
August 25, 2010  
September 22, 2010

**WOOD-DESTROYING INSECT INSPECTION TRAINING**  
September 29, 2010 – Ohio Department of Agriculture,  
Reynoldsburg

**OSU EXTENSION EDUCATOR PESTICIDE APPLICATOR INSERVICE**  
December 8 & 9, 2010 – Ohio 4-H Center, OSU Campus, Columbus

**OHIO COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION CONFERENCES (General and Field Crops Combined)**  
January 11, 2011 – Sandusky, Kalahari Conference Center  
February 16, 2011 – Dayton Convention Center  
March 2, 2011 – Akron, John S. Knight Center  
March 9, 2011 – Columbus Convention Center

