

## **PEP-Talk, March, 2009**

Pesticide Education Program  
Ohio State University Extension  
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### **GPS PESTICIDE APPLICATION TRACKING SYSTEM**

A new pesticide application product has been developed that records the geographic location of the application, environmental conditions such as temperature, the amount of chemical used, the pest controlled and the name of the applicator. The system is GPS-based and is designed to be exported to spreadsheet or database programs while linked to initial work orders. Maps from the system can be viewed and shared through Google Earth. The product, called SprayLogger, was launched by AgTerra Technologies, which is based in Wyoming.

(Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 37, No. 13)

### **WDI TRAINING FOR SPRING**

April 1 will be the next training session for inspectors wanting to become licensed for wood-destroying insect inspections. Ohio regulation requires a license for anyone performing insect inspections as part of a real estate transaction. The license requires the inspectors to attend a mandatory five-hour training session and take a test.

Anyone interested in attending the training can go to the Pesticide Safety Education Program website at <http://pested.osu.edu> for information. If there are any questions, they can call the program at (614) 292-4070. The class will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The registration, which includes lunch, is \$90 if pre-registered and \$100 at the door. Ohio State University Extension Educators who would like to learn more about inspecting structures for insect damage can attend the training at the discounted rate of \$25. Call (614) 292-4070 for more information.

### **BEES PROTECT PLANTS FROM CATERPILLARS**

A recent study in Germany found that honeybees help defend plants against caterpillars. The researchers found that many caterpillars can detect air vibrations such as the sound of an approaching predatory wasp or honeybee. Since many caterpillars can't distinguish between hunting wasps and harmless bees, they stop moving or drop from the plant. Constant stress from honeybees could reduce caterpillar feeding on fruiting plants. The study found that bell pepper plants confined in a tent with bees and caterpillars suffered 60 to almost 70 percent less damage to their leaves in comparison to those in a tent with caterpillars alone.

(Source: Chemically Speaking, University of Florida Extension, January 2009)

### **PROPOSED BUDGET INCREASE FOR EPA**

The U.S. EPA budget would increase to \$10.5 billion in the budget proposed by the Obama administration. This would be an increase of 34 percent for the agency over the 2009 budget – the largest ever proposed since its inception in 1970. The increased funding would be \$3.9 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, \$475 million for the Great Lakes restoration initiative and overall increases for the EPA operating budget and grant programs.

(Source: U.S. EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs)

### **ONTARIO BANS HOME AND GARDEN PRODUCTS**

Ontario has banned herbicides like glyphosate and 2,4-D, fungicides like captan and insecticides like rotenone for home and garden use. These pesticides are included in the more than 250 pesticide

products and 80 active ingredients that are part of the ban that goes into effect on April 22.

This follows a cosmetic pesticide ban that was passed in Ontario last year. The provincial government says that lower risk pesticides, biopesticides and alternatives to pesticides are available to control insects, fungi and weeds in urban area. The pesticides can still be used in specified cases. These include plants that are poisonous to the touch, insects that bite or sting, are venomous or are disease carrying, and animals, insects or plants that may cause structural damage.

(Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 37, No. 18)

### **UPDATE ON CLEAN WATER ACT COURT CASE**

In January, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals stated pesticide applications over water, even if done according to the label directions, would require a Clean Water Act permit for pollution discharge.

According to the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA), they have joined as a "friend of the court" to Crop Life America's appeal of this decision. The motion is being filed on the grounds both of errors of law by the three-judge panel at the 6th Circuit and of significant unintended adverse consequences of the opinion if left standing. Currently, the rehearing is anticipated in April of this year.

The judgment overthrew an existing EPA rule that pesticide applied to label directions under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) would be exempt from obtaining a pollution discharge permit under the Clean Water Act.

(Source: U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs)

### **WISCONSIN CLEAN SWEEP PROGRAM IN JEOPARDY**

Wisconsin's Clean Sweep Program collects toxic or harmful chemicals such as pesticides, drugs, insecticides, paint and solvents, televisions and computers to prevent them from entering landfills. The current budget introduced by the governor will eliminate about \$1 million in grants from the program.

Officials are concerned that rural and farm areas in the state will be hardest hit because there are not permanent drop-off sites like those that exist in urban areas.

(Source: Wisconsin State Journal, March 5, 2009)

## **PESTICIDE CROP WATCH**

### **INSECTICIDES**

Neonicotinoids – EPA has announced they intend to review these pesticides as a group. Neonicotinoids are a class of insecticides with a common mode of action that affects the central nervous system of insects. The review has already started with imidacloprid in December. Nithiazine will have a docket for public comment opened some time this month for 60 days. Other pesticides in this review include acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam.

(Source: U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

### **TRAINED SERVICEPERSON AND NEW APPLICATOR COMMERCIAL SCHOOLS**

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 TRAINING**

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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