

## PEP-TALK

OSU Extension Pesticide Education Program

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### OSU PAT NEWS

#### Safe Travels

Joanne Kick-Raack, Coordinator for Pesticide Applicator Training at OSU, will be embarking upon a wonderful adventure in June. Joanne is leaving her full-time extension appointment to experience life in Germany for two years. Never fear, after she gets settled, she will be connected to OSU via Internet and will continue to consult with the PAT department on a limited basis. Joanne will be officially leaving the office next week and will be leaving for Europe in June.

Joanne has led the PAT program with an expert hand and created a top-notch service for Pesticide Applicator Training clients. She will most definitely be missed by Extension and by the rest of the PAT staff. Our best wishes go out to Joanne for safe travels and for an exciting experience.

Cheers Joanne!

June, Camille, and Lynne

#### New Venture

Camille Roush-Kopczewski, Extension Associate for Pesticide Applicator

Training will be leaving Extension on August 1, 1998. Camille is embarking upon an adventure of a different sort, she will be a full-time teacher this Fall with Southwestern City School District.

#### **PEP-TALK**

Due to the staffing changes within the PAT office, PEP-TALK newsletter will not be published during the upcoming months. Hopefully the new members of the PAT staff will choose to continue its publication in the future. However, Joanne Kick-Raack will be maintaining the PEP-TALK listserv for continued correspondence during the summer and fall.

#### **OHIO 24c FOR TILT**

On April 29, 1998, the Ohio Department of Agriculture has granted a SLN 24 (c) registration for the fungicide Tilt. Tilt is used for control of leaf and glume blotch, leaf rusts, and suppression of fusarium head blight in wheat. (Tom Camm, ODA, April 29, 1998) For a complete discussion see the OSU C.O.R.N. newsletter. Please contact our office if you need a copy of the supplemental label.

#### **FQPA MEMORANDUMS ISSUED**

Amidst growing concerns from the agricultural community regarding EPA's approaches to implementing the FQPA, Vice President Gore issued a memorandum on April 8, 1998 to EPA and USDA. The purpose of the memo was to reaffirm the White House's commitments under the Act and to clarify how they plan to fulfill them. The memo expounded upon the benefits of this legislation including a safe food supply and continued global trading. Vice President Gore also commented upon the importance of putting children's safety first. Most importantly it provided some directions to EPA by providing four key implementation principles.

Gore encouraged the EPA and USDA to work together to implement the FQPA's stronger standards that present complex scientific and regulatory issues. "There are corresponding concerns about potential uncertainty for those whose livelihood and practices are potentially affected as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implements the new law. Accordingly, on behalf of President Clinton and in accordance with my responsibility for implementation of Executive Order 12866 (Sep. 30, 1993), I am requesting that the EPA Administrator and the Secretary of Agriculture work together to ensure that implementation of the paramount public health goals of the new law is informed by a sound regulatory approach, by the expertise of the Department of Agriculture (USDA), by appropriate input from

affected members of the public, and by due regard for the needs of our Nation's agricultural producers."

Specific working goals for EPA and USDA were listed as well as a protocol for communicating decisions and positions of the two agencies to affected constituencies. Gore also stated in the memo that "implementation of the law will require transition to new pest management strategies for certain pesticide users. EPA and USDA should work together to address transition challenges in future years."

The four key implementation principles outlined by Gore were:

1. Sound Science in Protecting Public Health. Regulatory decisions should be based on the best science and data available; use of default assumptions should be carefully considered and fully explained; in evaluating whether or not to remove or reduce the presumptive tenfold safety factor, EPA should recognize the discretion provided in the current law.

2. Transparency (!!)

Decisions and positions of the two agencies should be transparent, that is, EPA needs to keep their processes / decisions open and communicate to affected constituencies.

3. Reasonable Transition for Agriculture. EPA does not intend any significant use cancellations in this growing season. If this should change, immediate consultation with USDA and affected constituencies should take place; implementation should ensure that affected pesticide users have the time, technical assistance, and support they need for transition to new and effective pest management strategies.

4. EPA and USDA should establish an effective means of consultation with user groups, pesticide manufacturers, environmental and public health organizations, and others concerned about FQPA implementation, while meeting the requirements and timetables set forth in the Act.

Dan Glickman, Secretary Department of Agriculture and Carol M. Browner, Administrator Environmental Protection Agency, responded to the Vice President's memo with one of their own assuring the White House that cooperation between the two agencies was definite and to inform Gore of actions the agencies are taking to ensure smooth implementation of the FQPA. Glickman and Browner stated they would immediately form an advisory group to help establish the "framework for EPA's decisions on the first major - and most widely used - set of chemicals EPA is evaluating, organophosphates." (Donald Baumgartner, USEPA, e-mail, April 22, 1998)

## **DIET AND LIFESTYLE HAVE GREATER CANCER ROLE THAN EXPOSURES TO SUBSTANCES, REPORT SAYS.**

The National Center for Policy Analysis has issued a report that calls for the nation's priorities in fighting cancer to be reexamined. The report asserts that more energy should be focused on the largest causes of cancer - such as diet, lack of exercise, and smoking - rather than on expensive regulations of chemicals that pose a relatively small risk.

The report, entitled "Misconceptions About Environmental Pollution, Pesticides, and the Causes of Cancer," says that poor diet accounts for about a third of cancer risk, while exposure to synthetic chemicals is much less risky.

The report also lists 10 common "misconceptions" about cancer and toxicology. One common misconception is that synthetic chemicals pose a greater risk of cancer than natural chemicals. The report goes on to say that the high doses used in rodent carcinogenicity testing has little relationship to the low doses encountered in normal human exposure to chemicals. The report was written by Bruce N. Ames, the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Center, University of California at Berkeley, and Lois Swirsky Gold, director of the center's Carcinogenic Potency Project. Copies of the report are available for a fee from NCPA, 12655 N. Central Expressway, Suite 720, Dallas, TX, 75243, (800) 859-1154. (Daily Environment Report, April 10, 1998, ppA-6-7.)

## **NEW CERTIFICATION OF RESPIRATORS**

A new NIOSH certification change regarding respirators will replace dust/mist filtering respirators and organic vapor removing cartridge respirators (section 11's) with prefilters approved for pesticides (Part 84). NIOSH upgraded the certification tests for particulate respirators in July 1995. As of July 10, 1998, respirator manufacturers will cease to manufacture Part 11 respirators. NIOSH is encouraging respirator users to switch to the Part 84 respirators as soon as possible.

The NIOSH certification changes potentially could have an enormous impact. The regulatory impact is that anyone not using the respirator listed on the pesticide label is in violation of "the label is the law" standard. The impact on the pesticide user is that in some geographic areas may experience shortages of the newly certified respirators during this or the next few years. The Federal Register notice addressing the Part 11/Part 84 respirator policy statement was published May 7, 1998. For a copy of the this Federal Register listing, please contact the PAT office. (Judy Smith, USEPA, E-mail, April 17, 1998)

## **EXTOXNET FAQs FOR REVIEW**

The Extension Toxicology Network (EXTOXNET) has recently completed the development of a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). This project was partially funded by an Ag Telecommunications Grant to expand the offerings and delivery of the EXTOXNET educational information.

Some of these FAQs may be of interest to those doing pesticide training. Please pursue participation in an 3 week "pre-public-release" review of the EXTOXNET FAQs, and offer comments and suggestions for their improvement. After the review and final editing, the FAQs will be moved to the EXTOXNET website at Oregon State University and be released to the public in early June, 1998.

The address for the EXTOXNET FAQs is: <http://www.envtox.ucdavis.edu/tdc/>  
(Art Craigmill, EXTOXNET National Coordinator, April 29, 1998)