

EPA Region 7, Pre-SFIREG Meeting Report

A pre-SFIREG meeting took place on May 19, 2016. In attendance were the following representatives from EPA Region 7 State Lead Agencies (SLA):

Missouri

Paul Bailey
Darryl Slade
Melissa May

Nebraska

Tim Creger
Craig Romary
Herbert Bates
Tammy Zimmerman

Kansas

Gary Meyer
Jeanne Fox

Iowa

Gretchen Paluch

EPA Region 7 participants: Royan Teter, Shawn Hackett, Lacey Ridnour, Mark Leshner, Beth Held, Brandon Boatman, and Sara Lamprise.

The purpose of the meeting was to identify issues, develop issue papers, and discuss topics related to SLA pesticide programs. No topics were presented that elevated to the level of an issue paper. The meeting became a simple Region 7 All-States Staff meeting.

EPA Region 7 SLA Meeting Topics.

Introduction & Updates - SLA and EPA Region 7 provided updates on current programs and resources, including multiple staffing changes since the last meeting and adjustments in the FY16 budget.

KDA

- Mentioned that KS is in the middle of a funding battle with no balance budget and possible cuts looming for some agencies.
- Mentioned that the legislature passed HB 2490 which defines toxins as a plant pest that can be quarantined. KDA will be allowed to hold crops with positive detection of drift in the field.
- KDA recently filled four vacant positions (2 field staff and 2 central office staff).
- KDA is working with Kelly Solutions on new database and they hope to go live with dealer registrations soon.

NDA

- Number of complaint driven investigations are up 200%.
- No significant legislative proposals in the new FY,
- Mentioned there is a continuation of an ongoing study of 2,4-D and other phenoxy herbicides on grapes grown in NE.
- Mentioned that they have a target date of June 1, 2016, for going live with Pearson Vue certification examination proctoring. Applicators will be able to schedule for an examination at one of 15 NE testing centers and applicators will have the ability to take the NE examinations at test centers in any of the other 50 states. Half of the NE certification examinations will be available when they go live.

IDALS

- Mentioned that during the past legislative session there was a pesticide bill introduced that would require a reduction in turn-around time on residue sample results relating to

misuse investigations. The purpose of this bill is to protect organic marketing claims. The bill did not include any financial support for IDALS.

- IDALS is working with Extension to create a state specific Pest Management Resistance Plan.
- IDALS provided a follow-up on the Region 7 Inspector Workshop held in early spring and sponsored by IDALS.

MDA

- Implement statutory amendment relating to evidence of financial responsibility for certified commercial applicators with regulations going into effect on June 30, 2016.
- On April 1, 2016, MDA went live with Pearson Vue for proctoring of all certification examinations. Applicators can schedule for examination at any of the 41 MO testing centers or they can schedule to take MO's examinations in any testing center in any of the 50 states.
- Will be filling a new Program Coordinator position beginning FY 17 (July 1) to replace one of two Program Coordinators lost in 2011, this position will help in the Enforcement and WPS programs.

EPA Region 7

- Region 7 plans to have two position announcements posted before June 1.
- Region 7 mentioned that the WPS Inspection Manual is with OECA and going through comments.
- Region 7 mentioned in detail the recent announcement about EPA's Multipurpose Grants.

Update from BASF and Monsanto – relating to the registration progress on Engenia and M1691.

Operation SAFE (NAAA) – NDA mentioned that NAAA analyst in NE are informing aerial applicators to extend their booms to the end of the wings if there is winglet attached to the wing. NDA indicated that this is contrary to the limits found on the pesticide labels. NDA presented this issue to the POM during their last meeting in April.

Action Items and Issue Paper – There are no action items or issue papers brought forward at this time.

KDA will begin serving as the Region 7 SFIREG Representative at the December 2016 SFIREG meeting.