

Hank Uhden, WY, Region 8 SFIREG
Region 8 Pre-SFIREG
Western Region Pesticides Meeting
Scottsdale, AZ

Wednesday, May 18
3:15 – 5:00 pm

National SFIREG Discussion:

Methomyl misuse and the ghost buster raccoon symbol
Concerns that the agency is rushing C&T through without fully vetting
WPS: WPS resources and SLA expectation to enforce the new provisions in 2017
Seed lubricants
Label comparison tool demonstration and discussion
WPS discussion
Discussion about a National survey to assess consumption of cannabis
Disinfectant RTU labels and PPE
PSEP funding mechanism
Marijuana 24C's

Other State Issues:

Pesticides of Concern / POINTS / Ground Water Sampling Analysis & Methodology
Pseudomonas fluorescens to control cheat grass

Region 8 Pre-SFIREG was attended by Region 8 states (WY, SD, CO, MT), PSEP coordinators (WY, UT), and Region 8 EPA representatives.

Topics from National SFIREG were distributed and briefly covered.

Hot Issues - National:

- **C&T** – Allow states to implement WPS before C&T changes take effect.
- **WPS** – Training resources development and release are too slow in taking place.
- **Cannabis** – Lack of guidance on products / tolerances.
- **PSEP** – Funding.

Hot Issues – State:

- **Pesticides of Concern** – Ground water monitoring. Received clarification from Regional EPA at Western Region meeting regarding laboratory methodologies & establishing POCs. Topic removed from further discussion.

- **Pseudomonas fluorescens** – Regional concerns regarding this product being used for control of cheat grass. Manufacturer seeking registration as a soil amendment in a number of states, and cautioned to not make pesticide claims on the label. Wyoming required specific language removed from product label. Product typically is applied in conjunction with Milestone. Email discussions include:
 - FWS may have been attempting to obtain an EPA registration for this "microbial herbicide", but it seems it is already being used widely in our states. Likely masquerading as a "soil amendment"?
 - regarding the commercial use of Pseudomonas by an Idaho business for weed control in Colorado. I was looking at Anne's study which seems to cover some of our concerns about adequate testing and eventual registration, but we're concerned about the use of this in Colorado. Ann's research blurb indicates that USFWS is the intended registrant. If this company is making claims of controlling weeds, it would need to be registered with EPA and with CDA (the latter hasn't occurred). We would like to know more about its use, if you have any more details, such as the name of the company, where it's been used and who's been using it. That will help find out whether it has the needed OKs to be used here, and what studies and precautions have been taken with its commercial use.
 - NRCS, State Forest Service , BLM and the West Region Wildfire Council are actively seeking areas to apply this material. They plan on aerially applying to large areas and to provide a cost share program to landowners. This is the company promoting this: BioWest Ag 206 N1st E Aberdeen, ID 83210 208-397-4515
 - Here are a couple of links with more info.
 - <http://wyomingbusinessreport.com/battle-over-invasive-weeds-ratchets-up/>
 - <http://www.cowildfire.org/2016/01/22/cheatgrass-control-using-bacterial-soil-amendment/>
 - FWS press release on Pseudomonas fluorescens, also known as ACK55. Cynthia Brown, CSU, Dept. of Bioag. Sciences and Pest Mgmt. has been working on this.
 - The news release about ACK55 can be found at:
<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/news/news.cfm?id=2144375216>.
 - Bio West Ag Solutions <http://www.biowest.ag/> out of Idaho is marketing this product under the name MB 906. It typically is used along with Milestone during treatments. Originally they were using label statements similar to pesticide language, which we required to be removed before they registered it as a soil amendment. We have monitored them during their marketing presentations to be sure that they are not making pesticide claims. I believe our university weed scientists are doing some research on this product for efficacy as well to see if it does control cheat grass.