

Region 6 SFIREG Report submitted by Ryan Williams, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture

On October 12th – 13th, 2016, Region 6 met in Dallas, TX for the Region 6 EPA/States/Tribe Spring meeting. In conjunction with this meeting a Pre-SFIREG meeting was held on May 11th. Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, the Cherokee Nation, and the Eight Northern Indian Pueblo Council were represented at this meeting. Below are the topics of concern that Region 6 requested to be presented at the December 2016 SFIREG meeting.

Credentials

- A few still having problems with original certificates.
- Overall all states have seen a huge improvement in the credentialing process and in the turnaround time issuing the credentials.

Dicamba

- All states in R6 either has already had and/or predicts issues to arise with these tolerant crops and the chemicals applied.
 - There were discussions as to how states were going to handle this new technology. Rules and Regs as well as some training/education programs which may require different or extra certification have been mentioned.

Imports

- R6 receives 32% of all the US pesticide imports. EPA is putting a new electronic system in place called "ACE" for import inspections.
 - This causes concern for many reasons; EPA will no longer be reviewing labels at the port being one of the biggest.
 - Imports will be done electronically through ACE, this program as described will only check applications for completeness not for accuracy. Not checking these products at the port will only mean that there will be more misbranded and unregistered products.

WPS

- Concerns of repercussions for doing compliance assistance instead an enforcement action.
 - The time table to get establishments, worker & handlers into compliance is not realistic.