

Region 6 SFIREG Report submitted by Leslie Smith, Texas Department of Agriculture

On October 10-11, 2018, Region 6 met in Dallas, Texas for the Region 6 EPA/States/Tribal/CES Fall meeting. A Pre-SFIREG session was held in conjunction with this meeting. Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and the Eight Northern Pueblos were represented at the October meeting. Arkansas participated by phone due to weather related travel issues. The topics of concern that Region 6 requested to be presented at the December 2018 SFIREG meeting are below.

Dicamba and 2,4-D

Arkansas received approximately 200 complaints on dicamba during the 2018 growing season even with the ban on the use of dicamba. Louisiana has also received complaints due to dicamba. All the states thought the dicamba trainings had helped make growers more aware of potential issues with their applications. Texas has received a few formal complaints on 2, 4-D applications to cotton but has heard anecdotal reports of damage to other crops and ornamentals. Texas may propose a rule requiring one hour of training for dicamba and one hour for 2,4-D applications to transgenic cotton. Dicamba use was not an issue for Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Federal certification requirements – State plans

All the Region 6 states are concerned as to what the requirements will be for the state plans. Even though they are not due until 2020, we do not know the format or the level of detail that will be required. Some of the states may have to have revisions to statutes and/or regulations before they can develop the state plan. States at least need a checklist or an example to ensure that all plans are uniform across the country. This will also assist the reviewers. There is also concern about the state plans going through and being reviewed by the Regions then going to HQ (OPP); without clear guidance for submission it is feared that what the Regional office says is allowable may not be the same at HQ.

Work plans

The Region 6 states need training, detailed instructions or examples as to what/how the regional office wants the narrative sections written. Filling out most of the 5700 forms in the template are not a problem. NOTE: Examples of the narrative sections were received by the states after the meeting.

Inspector credentials

Some of the Region 6 states are still having issues receiving inspector credentials. The Wiki website had been down for a few weeks but is not working again.