

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

On October 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Region 6 met in Dallas, Texas for the Region 6 EPA/States/Tribe Fall meeting. In conjunction with this meeting a Pre-SFIREG meeting was held on October 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 2019 SFIREG meeting.

### Dicamba

4 of the 5 states observed normal to below normal dicamba complaints this use season. Texas had 10 complaints, Oklahoma and Louisiana both recorded 3 alleged complaints. New Mexico reported 0 complaints due to very limited use in their state and Arkansas received 209 dicamba complaints. Due to high number of complaints year after year, Arkansas has dedicated the majority of their enforcement time to dicamba related issues.

Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas AgriLife Extension are concerned with rumors of up to 80% of the 2019 cotton acreage being sprayed with generic formulations of dicamba, similarly other state have been hearing more and more of this practice. Texas had 3,000 less applicators complete the dicamba training compared to last year, as well as Oklahoma saw approximately 50% less applicators complete the training in 2019 compared to 2018.

### EPA referrals and inspections

Region 6 states have a long running issue with the amount of time referrals get from the region to the state. Often time it is over a month from the time the complaint is received in R6 until the state is notified and in most cases the information given is vague and lacking information. This is a concern for a couple reasons:

- If there is a potential issue, why does it take so long for the state to receive the referral?
- Scrutiny toward the SLA from the complainant/alleged infractor in regards to the amount of time to investigate.

States have experienced little to no communication when a complaint is referred from the SLA to the region. SLA's continue to have issues with regional EPA inspectors conducting inspections and/or investigations in the states without any notification to the SLA. This often reflects poorly on the SLA when the one of the parties involved contacts the SLA.

### Revised C&T plans

Louisiana and Texas has completed their revisions and have submitted them to the region. Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico are working to complete theirs, all are confident they will have plans submitted on time.