

# Region 1 New England

## SFIREG Meeting Report

### PreSFIREG Meeting

November 10, 2020

Teams Meeting

ATTENDANCE						
EPA	VERMONT	MAINE	NEW HAMPSHIRE	RHODE ISLAND	CONNECTICUT	MASSACHUSETTS
Rob Koethe	Cary Giguere	John Petroski	David Rousseau	Howard Cook	Zach Donais	Taryn LaScola-Miner
Kan Tham	Kanika Gandhi	Mary Tomlinson				
Andrea Szylvian		Megan Patterson				
John Bowman						
Sharon Hayes						
Tristan Pluto						
Stephanie Carr						

### Pesticide misapplications in Bee Hives, *Kim Skyrn, President of Apiary Inspectors of America and Massachusetts Chief Apiary Inspector*

Dr. Skyrn provided a summary of the issues that Apiary Inspectors have been seeing relative to pesticide use in commercial hives. He provided information on some of the cases that he had been investigating in the 2020 season. Dr. Skyrn also provided a description of the Apiary Inspectors of America and what they do.

### Antimicrobial/Disinfectant Applications and COVID-19

There was some general discussion among the SLA's about licensing requirements for the use of disinfectants/antimicrobials commercially, complaints, Section 18 requests. Rhode Island,

Massachusetts and Vermont had received some Section 18 requests. The states were either in the review process or beginning to move forward with submitting the request to EPA.

**FIFRA Database**, *Allen Demorest, EPA*

Mr. Demorest provided a quick overview and update on the FIFRA database and its capabilities.

**State Updates**

**Certification/Training:** The states are still holding pesticide exams, but with reduced capacity at the exam locations. Massachusetts is close to having their online pesticide exams go live and Connecticut is working with a vendor to get their exams online. The states are allowing for their continuing education units to be obtained online. In some cases, states have waived the limit of online CEU's to be obtained.

**Complaints:** Generally speaking, the volume of complaints has increased with some of those complaints related to disinfect/antimicrobial uses.

**State Plan:** One state has received their state plan back from EPA with several comments.

**Cooperative Agreements and Guidance Document**, Taryn LaScola-Miner

There was discussion relative to the way in that the FY19 End of Year reviews and FY 20' workplan planning was conducted. The states noticed that both processes had changed and, in some instances, took up additional time/resources. This was discussed with Region representatives who explained that programmatic changes within EPA and timing of the changes, the process did not go as smoothly as they had anticipated.